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A HISTORY OF THE WASHINGTON STATE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

By

Don Donaldson

Perkins Institution  
Watertown, Mass.  
May 10, 1935







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## INTRODUCTION

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## A HISTORY OF THE WASHINGTON STATE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

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### INTRODUCTION

The casual visitor to the Washington State School for the Blind carries away with him a vivid picture -- a picture of five stolid brick buildings set closely together and overlooking the beautiful Columbia River valley with its orchards, dairies and city lights; of smiling boys and girls, strolling arm-in-arm on the walk that parallels the front of the buildings, vieing with one another on the spacious lawns, playing football, wrestling, flying kites or roller skating; of scholastic activity with children rushing about with slates in their hands and braille books under their arms; and over all, the strains of various musical instruments -- piano, violin, cello, pipe organ, clarinet -- blended in sweet discord.

The visitor, if he be of an inquiring mind, may ask: What lies behind the happy, bustling life of this institution that releases almost daily souls imprisoned by physical darkness and gives to them wings of freedom to soar to personal triumphs? What is its history? And should he care to delve into the records of the school to learn this, he will find his effort of little avail, for nothing heretofore has ever been written on the history of the education of the blind in the State of Washington, except a few scattered and unrelated facts.



That this story might be reconstructed in its fullest detail is the purpose of this paper. Search for data on the subject has carried the writer to the documents and files of the Washington State School for the Blind, to the library of the University of Washington, the law and Widener libraries of Harvard University, and the Blindiana of Perkins Institution. He has read all the reports and many papers of former directors and superintendents of the Washington School, the reports of special commissions, legislative house journals, gubernatorial messages, and innumerable newspaper clippings. Even a number of reports from other schools for the blind and the proceedings of the American Association of Instructors of the Blind have been scanned with the hope of shedding further light on the subject.

From this extended research has evolved this paper, which the writer sincerely hopes, may be of service to others interested in the history of the education of the blind in the State of Washington.

What has been the happy, fruitful life of this institution that reaches about fifty miles from the city of Seattle to the coast and gives to them a sense of freedom to meet the personal triumph? What is the history? And should he have to solve that the records of the school to learn this, he will find his effort well repaid. The schoolmaster has ever been witness to the history of the education of the blind in the State of Washington, among a few scattered and unrelated



board of trustees consisting of five members to manage the affairs. A HISTORY OF THE WASHINGTON STATE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, and salary of the director; and specified the opening and closing dates of the term, the fiscal school year, application for admission, admission of non-residents, etc. The bill

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but legislation relating to the blind and deaf antedates this by many years. As early as 1861 a law was enacted in the territory which exempted from taxation a sisterhood of blind women. In 1881 there was introduced into the territorial House of Representatives, and defeated, "an act to exempt the blind from school tax".<sup>1</sup> In November of that year a bill was

presented to the same body which aimed to provide for the education of deaf-mutes -- the earliest attempt to establish a school for handicapped youth in the territory. The bill was turned over to the Ways and Means Committee, approved by that group, but later killed. A similar act, "appropriating money for the care and education of indigent deaf-mutes",<sup>2</sup> was rejected in 1883 by the Legislature.<sup>3</sup> Nothing more was done in the interest of the deaf and blind until the territorial legislative session of 1885-86.

At that session a bill was passed which established at Vancouver, in Clark County, the Washington School for Defective Youth for the education of the deaf, blind, and feeble-minded children of the Territory of Washington.<sup>4</sup> This bill also provided for the Director of the school shall be a competent, expert educator of defective youth; a hearing man of sound learning and morals, not under 30 or more than 70 years of age;

1. House Journal of Territory of Wash., 1881, H.B. 8, Pp. 26, 80.

2. House Journal of Territory of Wash., 1883, H.B. 35, P. 81.



# A HISTORY OF THE WASHINGTON STATE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

## I

The history of the education of handicapped children in the State of Washington begins with the date 1886, at which time a territorial school for defective youth was established; but legislation relating to the blind and deaf antedates this by many years. As early as 1861 a law was enacted in the territory which exempted from taxation a sisterhood of blind women. In 1881 there was introduced into the territorial House of Representatives, and defeated, "an act to exempt the blind from school tax".<sup>1</sup> In November of that year a bill was presented to the same body which aimed to provide for the education of deaf-mutes -- the earliest attempt to establish a school for handicapped youth in the territory. The bill was turned over to the Ways and Means Committee, approved by that group, but later killed. A similar act, "appropriating money for the care and education of indigent deaf-mutes",<sup>2</sup> was rejected in 1883 by the Legislature.<sup>3</sup>

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1. House Journal of Territory of Wash., 1881, H.B. 8, Pg. 26, 80.  
2. House Journal of Territory of Wash., 1883, H.B. 24, Pg. 27, 81.



board of trustees consisting of five members to manage the affairs of the institution; stated the qualifications, duties and salary of the director; and specified the opening and closing dates of the term, the fiscal school year, application for admission, admission of non-residents,<sup>5</sup> etc. The bill was signed by Governor Watson C. Squire on the Third of February, 1886.

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3. This list of legislative enactments relating to the blind and deaf prior to 1886 is not comprehensive.
  4. Code of Washington, Sec. 1979-2003, Pp. 352-354: "That a state school be, and hereby is established, to be known as the Washington School for Defective Youth, for the education of the deaf, blind and feeble-minded youth of the State of Washington.  
"The location of the said school shall be at Vancouver, in Clark County.  
"Said school shall be free to all resident youth in the State of Washington, who are too deaf, blind or feeble-minded to be taught by ordinary methods in the public school: Provided, they are free from vicious habits and from loathsome or contagious diseases.  
"Said school shall be under the management of trustees, consisting of five persons of good repute and learning, being citizens of the state, nominated by the Governor, and confirmed by the Senate.  
"After organization, as hereafter provided, said board of trustees, and their successors shall have the management of the real and personal property, funds, financial business and all general and public interest of the school, with power to receive, hold, manage, dispose of, and convey any, and all real and personal property made over to them by purchase, gift, devise or bequest, and the proceeds, and interest thereof for the use of the school.  
"All appointments shall be such that the board shall always contain at least one practical educator, one physician and one lawyer.  
"After the 30th day of June, 1886, all financial business, accounts and official terms shall conform thereto.  
"At each regular session of the State Legislature the board of trustees shall present a full report to the Governor of the operations of the school during the previous two years.  
"The Director of the school shall be a competent, expert educator of defective youth; a hearing man of sound learning and morals, not under 30 or more than 70 years of age; practically acquainted with school management and class







A few days later a board of trustees, appointed by the Governor, took immediate steps to organize and perform its official duties. It found a small class of deaf mute children in Tacoma, maintained by charitably disposed persons of different denominations, and taught by a Presbyterian minister of that city, named W. D. McFarland. This class was adopted as the nucleus of the State School for Defective Youth, being the very first of the new institution. Together with the teacher and

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instruction of the deaf, blind and feeble-minded. He shall reside in the school and be furnished quarters, heat, light and food.

"The Director shall be responsible for the care of the premises and property of the school, selection and control of employees, regulation of the household, discipline of the school, arrangement and execution of the proper course of study, training of the pupils in morals and manners, and the general oversight of all internal affairs of the school, and shall be before the regular annual meetings of the Board of Trustees . . . with a full report of the operation of the school during the previous school year.

"The salary of the Director shall be \$900 for the first year of his service in the school, with an increase of not more than \$100 per annum up to a maximum salary of \$1,500 per annum. He shall have no other occupation during his term of service in the school.

"The Director may be removed at any time with three-fifths vote of the full Board of Trustees for misconduct, incapacity, mismanagement, inefficiency or immorality.

"The parent, guardian or next friend of any defective youth, residing in the State of Washington shall at least 10 days before the last Wednesday in February and August of each year, furnish to the secretary of the Board of Trustees, in writing, full and satisfactory information concerning such youth. The Board of Trustees shall have the power to expel any pupil.

"Defective youths not residing in the State shall be admitted under such conditions as may be prescribed by the Board of Trustees.

"The regular school term shall begin on the last Wednesday of August in each year, and end on the last Wednesday of May following." (In 1909 the beginning of the school term was changed to the second Wednesday of September, and the closing of the term to the second Wednesday of the following June. --Wash. Session Laws, 1909, Ch. 97, P. 258.)



A law have taken a number of measures, suggested by the Government, which immediately steps to determine and perform the official duties. It found a small class of deaf and dumb children in the same, maintained by slightly different persons of different backgrounds, and taught by a Frenchman minister of the city, named W. P. Kervin. This class was elected as the nucleus of the State School for Deaf and Dumb, being the very first of the new institution. Therefore, this is the first and

institution of the deaf, blind and feeble-minded. The small school in the school was in the school of the deaf, blind and feeble-minded. The school shall be responsible for the care of the pupils and property of the school, selection and admission of pupils, regulation of the business, discipline of the school, maintenance and execution of the proper course of study, training of the pupils in morals and manners, and the general oversight of all internal affairs of the school, and shall be subject to the regular annual meeting of the Board of Directors. . . . with a full report of the operations of the school during the previous school year. The salary of the Director shall be \$2000 for the first year of his service in the school, with an increase of one hundred dollars each year as he continues to serve in the school. The Director may be removed at any time with three-fourths vote of the full board of Directors for mismanagement, inefficiency, incompetency, immorality or immorality. The board, composed of not more than five of any defective youth residing in the State of Washington shall at least 10 days before the last Wednesday in February and March in each year, furnish to the secretary of the Board of Directors, in written, full and satisfactory information concerning each pupil. The Board of Directors shall have the power to extend any pupil. Defective youths not residing in the State shall be admitted under such conditions as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors. The regular annual term shall begin on the first Wednesday of August in each year, and on the last Wednesday of May following. (In the beginning of the school term was changed to the second Wednesday of September, and the opening of the term to the second Wednesday of the following year. -- term, session laws, 1907, ch. 1, sec. 1.)



his helpers, the class was transferred to Vancouver.<sup>6</sup> Even the furniture of the class was sent with it.<sup>7</sup> As the legislature had made no provision for the erection or purchase of buildings for the school, the trustees rented for the first term a building in the heart of Vancouver which had formerly been a hotel.

Eleven deaf mutes with their Presbyterian pastor teacher, a few pieces of second-hand furniture, and a small rented building in the center of Vancouver constituted the humble beginnings of what eventually has become one of the finest schools for the blind in America. When one compares this modest little territorial school of 1886-87 with either the State School for the Deaf or the State School for the Blind of today, he cannot help but wonder at the great change that has been wrought in the short space of forty-nine years.

In the mean time, a commission of three members was appointed by the Governor, which was to report "within thirty days from the date of their appointment to select a suitable site, and report their action to the Governor." The commissioners met in the First National Bank at Vancouver on February twenty-fourth, 1886, and elected S. W. Brown President and Henry Landes secretary.

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5. Years after the school got well under operation, owing to the fact that the State of Idaho had up to this time made no provision for the education of its deaf and blind, the Washington School cared for a number of Idaho children. A sum of \$200 per year for each child was charged Idaho. -- See, Biennial Report of Idaho School for Deaf and Blind, 1909-10, P. 3; also, Best, "Blindness and the Blind", P. 355.
  6. The first school for seeing children to be opened in what is now the State of Washington was located at Fort Vancouver, January 1, 1833. -- See, Meany, Prof. Edmond S., "History of the State of Washington", P. 69.
  7. Report of Board of Trustees, 1887, P. 4.







They unanimously selected a site containing 129 acres:

"The said tract of land is about one mile outside the city limits, and can be purchased for \$2000, which sum exceeds but little, if any, the value of substantial improvements on the place, all, or nearly all of which can be advantageously used for the benefit of the school," reads the commission's report.<sup>8</sup>

"The land is finely watered by a pleasant and never failing stream, which passes over its entire length, and, in our judgment, is well calculated for such gardening and farming purposes as the success and best interest of the school requires."

A few citizens of Vancouver and vicinity purchased a farm connected with the selected location, which consisted of nearly 100 acres; this they donated to the territory for the use of the school. The entire property was appraised by the locating committee at \$5,000.<sup>9</sup> During the following summer there was erected on this site a two-story building used as school house and living quarters, which will be described in greater detail later.

The Board of Trustees did their utmost to win the full co-operation of the territorial legislature. In picturesque terms they pointed out the need for educating the handicapped children of the Territory. "The conclusion of those who have given thought and labor to the solution of the problem, how shall we care for the deaf mutes, feeble-minded, and blind, is, that this portion of the raising generation, if permitted to

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8. Report of the Board of Commissioners to Select a Site for the Deaf Mute School, 1887.

9. Report of the Board of Trustees, 1887, P. 3.



They consistently rejected a life revolving "the other way around."

741- any addition will not exceed 25% of total in funds also will

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little, it may, the value of individual investments in the

Please fill in details of all of your previous and present employment.

For the purpose of this study, the following hypotheses were formulated:

The case is finally covered up as a kidnapping and never telling

stated, which means that the entire length of the tape is not used.

It will calculate the cash position and timing required as

the success and best interest of the school requires."

A few minutes of conversation and I was back to work.

Continued on next page

110 series; this was located in the building for the 100

the agent. The entire property was appraised by the local

estimated at \$2,000.<sup>2</sup> During the twelfth month, 1962, the

erected on this site a two-story building and an annex wing

and living creatures, which will be described in greater detail

1941

The Board of Trustees did their utmost to win the fall

co-operation of the Central Intelligence Agency. In this regard

Some may believe that the cost of operating the facility

William of the Forest. The members of those who have

Given the above, we have to be careful of the results, and

2. JOHN PAUL, Bethesda-Wisconsin, active 1941-1942 and active as 1943

has this problem in the related connection, it is possible to



grow up as ignorant animals, will become an especially dangerous element in our population," they warn in their first report.<sup>10</sup> "With human powers for evil, they have no means of learning nearly all that elevates manhood above the brute creation. If our boasted civilization has aught of practical wisdom in it, we cannot fail to care for those who are not able to hear, speak, see or understand, except as they are taught through laborious and expensive methods, calling for practice, perseverance and the queen of all virtues, Charity!"<sup>11</sup>

What transpired during the first term? How did the class of eleven deaf mutes and their pastor teacher fare? These things must remain untold, for of them the reports are silent. It is only after the opening of the second full term, August, 1887, that greater light on the history of the school is shed.

a second year of the school II. of the school.

When the handful of deaf students returned to Vancouver on the last Wednesday of August, 1887, for the beginning of their second school year, they found many changes at the institution. There was a new location for the school, a new building, a new director, several beginning pupils, and perhaps even more surprising than anything else, a little blind class-mate.

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10. Report of the Board of Trustees, 1887, P. 7.

11. This same argument -- the potentiality of the uneducated blind person to do evil -- is still used by some educators of the blind. There appeared in the December, 1933, issue of Sight Saving Exchange this statement: "If society does not keep handicapped children busy in a constructive way during their school lives, they in a destructive way will be likely to keep society busy in their adult lives."







The connection of the first director, Rev. W. D. McFarland, with the school was severed in June, 1887. The trustees, however, were particularly fortunate in obtaining the services of Professor James Watson, an instructor of long experience and marked success,<sup>12</sup> who had come from the Bellville Institute for the Deaf and Dumb with his accomplished wife, daughter of the founder of the first school for the deaf in Canada.<sup>13</sup> Mr. and Mrs. Watson had spent their lives in this philanthropic work, and to them should be given credit for the success of the Washington School for Defective Youth during its embryonic years. Mr. Watson continued in the capacity of director of the school for nineteen years, the longest period anyone has remained its head.<sup>14</sup>

Besides the director, whose salary for the first year of service was fixed by law at \$900, to be increased each subsequent year at the discretion of the trustees, there were employed during the second term four persons -- a teacher, an assistant teacher, a matron and a cook. But such an elaborate staff was thought too costly; so, during the next term, the wife of the director combined the duties of both assistant teacher and matron, thus saving the expense of one employee.

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12. Report of the Board of Trustees, 1890, P. 3.

13. Report of the Board of Trustees, 1887, P. 5.

14. Nineteen years under one administration is somewhat out of the ordinary for Western schools for the blind of this period when political interference was common. For example, the Oregon Institute for the Blind, only a short distance from the Washington School, had eight superintendents during its first fourteen years of operation. -- See, eighth Report of the Oregon Institute for the Blind, 1893, P. 6.







The salaries paid to employees during this time ranged from twenty to fifty dollars per month with room and board.<sup>15</sup>

There had been instituted during the first term a movement to erect a building on the ground selected by the locating committee. In view of the fact that the citizens of Vancouver had already voluntarily contributed the funds wherewith to purchase the school site, and that the legislature had provided no money for the purpose, the task of erecting such a new building seemed quite hopeless. The zealous exertions of the trustees and other friends of the school resulted in securing only half the sum necessary to construct the building designed. However, \$500 was borrowed from benevolent friends of the school, including two of the trustees and one member of the locating committee, and the building was so far completed that at the beginning of the second term the rented structure in the heart of Vancouver was abandoned, and the school was opened in the new house.<sup>16</sup>

This building was less than forty feet square, two stories high, and connected with a small farm house -- really more of a house than a school building. In it the students lived, ate, slept, and attended their classes -- a very bedlam of confusion! So ill-planned was this new structure that even before completion of the first year of occupancy, Director Watson submitted this complaint to the board of trustees: "Owing to the combustible nature of the building, the lack of proper fire appliances and the fact that during the cold weather we are compelled to have

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15. The average monthly salary for teachers in the public school system of Washington at this time was \$47.66. -- See, Ninth Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the Territory of Washington, 1889.



The activities of the school were not limited to the classroom. The students were encouraged to participate in various extracurricular activities. The school also organized a number of social events, including a dance and a picnic. The students were also encouraged to participate in community service projects. The school was very successful in its efforts to provide a well-rounded education for its students. The students were not only academically successful, but they were also well-adjusted and socially active. The school was a source of pride for the community and a source of inspiration for the students.

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so many fires in stoves and open grates, a great deal of anxiety is caused. I would express the hope that during the cold season of the next session a night watchman will be employed, whose duty shall be to visit the various parts of the building at stated intervals, and thereby reduce the danger as far as possible. Fire escapes have been placed leading to the ground from windows of the dormitories occupied respectively by male and female pupils. These offer a ready means of exit in case of emergency."<sup>17</sup>

The school building was not the only thing to which the director objected. Apparently the furniture transferred from Tacoma with the first class and placed in the new home had become dilapidated. Mr. Watson says in his report of 1889, "I would recommend that iron bedsteads be procured to take the place of those in both the boys' and girls' dormitories. They have become so rickety, being of wood and of a cheap grade, that it is almost impossible to keep them together."<sup>18</sup>

Twenty pupils were in attendance the second term, of whom nineteen were deaf mutes and one a blind youth. Five of these nineteen deaf children came from one family, the Wade family of Montesano.<sup>19</sup> Many others within the territory were eligible to receive the benefits of the institution; but in presence of the fact that the class rooms and dormitories of the school were almost crowded to capacity, it was fortunate that not more children pressed their claim for admission.<sup>20</sup>

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16. Report of the Board of Trustees, 1887, p. 4.

17. Report of the Director, 1889.

18. Report of the Director, 1889.

19. Report of the Director, 1888, Pp. 15, 27.

20. Report of the Board of Trustees, 1887, P. 6.

as many times in stores and open spaces, a great deal of anxiety  
is caused. I would suggest the time that during the early season  
of the past season a night witness will be employed, whose  
duty shall be to watch the night work of the mill and  
other premises, and thereby reduce the danger to the mill.  
Five witnesses have been placed around the ground from witness  
of the premises occupied respectively by water and land.  
19. There after a body of water of water in case of emergency.  
The amount of water was not the only thing to which the  
directly related. Apparently the witnesses observed from  
Towers with the first alarm and placed in the way had become  
disappeared. It seems that in the report of 1907, it would  
be necessary that some witnesses be provided to take the time in  
those in both the night and day, respectively. They may have  
at night, being at work and at a night watch, that it is  
almost impossible to keep them together, 1910  
Twenty night watch is stationed the several times, at some  
times were that night and was a blind youth. When at some  
times that children were from the family, and when there are  
separated. 19. Every other within the territory were eligible to  
receive the benefits of the institution; but in possession of the  
fact that the same time and throughout of the school were  
almost needed in capacity, it was estimated that the more  
children passed their time the institution.

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16. Report of the Board of Trustees, 1907, p. 4.
  17. Report of the Director, 1907, p. 4.
  18. Report of the Director, 1907, p. 4.
  19. Report of the Director, 1907, p. 4.
  20. Report of the Board of Trustees, 1907, p. 4.



The only blind pupil enrolled at the school was a little boy from Tacoma named Harry E. Applegate.<sup>21</sup> Although the school was not in a position at the time to receive the blind, the parents of this youth were so exceedingly anxious that he enter upon his studies, that Mr. Watson felt constrained to give him the benefit of such advantages as the institution could offer. Books in embossed type, valued at \$25, were donated by Perkins Institution and the Massachusetts School for the Blind for his use, becoming the foundation of a department for the blind. And so began in 1887 the first class for the blind in Washington.

As evidence of the very satisfactory progress made by this first blind student may be mentioned the fact that in a short time he had learned to read simple sentences by means of raised letters. By the next term he had mastered the primer, first, second and third readers, and was able to derive much pleasure from his ability to read the New Testament, books which were included in the donations from Perkins Institution. He was taught to write legibly, could express his thoughts in composition, and often wrote his own letters to his parents. His knowledge of history, geography, grammar, arithmetic and scripture was pointed to with great pride by his teachers.<sup>22</sup>

It was greatly regretted by Mr. Watson that other blind students could not be accommodated at the school. "It is impossible," he wrote, "to extend the advantages of the institution to a number of this class of children and to do them that measure

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21. Session Logs of Washington, 1887.

22. Report of the Board of Trustees.

21. Harry Applegate still resides in the State of Washington.

22. Report of the Director, 1888, P. 21.





of justice, educationally and otherwise, to which they are entitled, until we are in a position financially to employ a special teacher for that department."<sup>23</sup>

Early in the year 1888 both houses of the legislature unanimous<sup>ly</sup> voted the sum of thirty thousand dollars for the erection of new buildings upon a site overlooking the Columbia River.<sup>24</sup> "The position is very commanding and the location salubrious. The lordly Columbia River, with its ever increasing steamboat traffic and its thousands of summer excursionists, flows past the doors of this institution; and for miles in either direction holds the eye of the beholder. The city of Portland and the continually multiplying and flourishing suburban towns and villages, with the glory crowned mountains of the Cascade range, will never fail to exert a valuable and delightful educational influence upon the generations of unfortunate children of the state, whose eyes and hands must perform for them the double function of ears and tongues."<sup>25</sup> Governor Eugene Semple appointed as building commissioners Colonel Shaw, J. D. Geoghegan and J. H. Healy, who adopted the plans drawn by an architect of Detroit, Michigan. The contract was awarded on May 24, 1888. The new building cost \$29,246, and was first occupied at the beginning of the term in 1889.<sup>26</sup> No longer was it necessary for the students and faculty to

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23. Report of the Board of Trustees, 1887, P. 7.

24. Session Laws of Washington, 1888, Ch. 45, P. 85.

25. Report of the Board of Trustees, 1892, P. 3.

26. Report of the Director, 1888.

of Justice, administratively and otherwise, in order that the  
collected, until we are in a position financially to make a  
special board for that department."

Early in the year 1888 both houses of the Legislature

unanimously voted the sum of thirty thousand dollars for the

erection of new buildings upon a site overlooking the University

grounds. The location is very commanding and the location

excellent. The land is owned by the University and the

collected funds and the amount of money available

those years the money of this institution and the state in which

the institution holds the eye of the beholder. The cost of building

and the architecturally designed and constructed building

and villas, with the many spacious grounds of the University

grounds, will never fail to exert a permanent and delightful

educational influence upon the generations of Americans

children of the state, whose eyes and hearts will be turned to

from the beautiful location of their own homes, and

these people regarded as the most beautiful campus

plan, J. D. Goehagan and J. R. Healy, who adopted the plan

given by an architect at Detroit, Michigan. The contract was

awarded to J. R. Healy. The new building cost \$20,000, and

was first occupied as the building of the law in 1888.<sup>26</sup>

It is no longer as it was necessary for the students and faculty to

22. Report of the Board of Trustees, 1887, p. 1.  
23. Section 100 of the Constitution, 1880, p. 1.  
24. Report of the Board of Trustees, 1880, p. 1.  
25. Report of the Board of Trustees, 1880, p. 1.  
26. Report of the University, 1888.



stand over open grates shivering during cold winter nights, as they had done in their old building.

With the view of ascertaining the number of deaf, blind and feeble-minded in the territory,<sup>27</sup> a letter was sent by Mr. Watson to each school teacher in the territory, inquiring as to the number of handicapped youths in their school district. It was learned of the whereabouts of fifteen deaf mutes, three blind and eighteen feeble-minded. Many teachers, however, did not reply to the inquiry.<sup>28</sup>

Two years later the United States census of 1890 showed that there were fifty-two deaf and seventy-eight blind youths under the age of twenty-one residing in the state. Of the number of deaf mutes reported, twenty-eight were, or had been, pupils at the school.<sup>29</sup> The school population at this time numbered twenty-six. Twenty-five of these pupils were deaf mutes, with but one blind, the same student who had enrolled three years before in 1887.<sup>30</sup>

A compulsory education law<sup>31</sup> was enacted the following year; this naturally increased the population of the school.

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27. Washington did not become a state until 1889.

28. Report of the Director, 1888, P. 25.

29. Report of the Board of Trustees, 1892, P. 20.

30. Report of the Director, 1889.

31. Session Laws of Washington, 1890, Ch. 16, P. 497: "It shall be the duty of the parents and guardian of all such defective youths to send them each year to the said State School for Defective Youth. The County Commissioners shall take all action necessary to enforce this section of the law: Provided, that if satisfactory evidence shall be laid before the county commissioners that any defective youth is being educated at home or in some suitable institution other than the Washington School for Defective Youth, the county commissioners shall take no other action in such





Mr. Watson had long urged the passage of such a law. Three years before, he had stated in a report: "It is impossible to arouse some parents to a sense of duty toward their unfortunate offspring, owing to mercenary or sentimental reasons; they will not avail themselves of this generous provision which has been made by the state for the education of their children. To meet such cases, it is to be hoped that the next legislature will enact a law calling for compulsory education of all defective youths between the ages of seven and twenty years resident in the state."<sup>32</sup> In the second Biennial Report of the Trustees, dated March 3, 1890, there is this statement: "We suggest that all deaf mute, blind and feeble-minded children between the ages of seven and twenty-one years should be compelled to attend this or some other like institution."<sup>33</sup> Washington's compulsory education law was in a measure responsible for Oregon enacting a similar law.<sup>34</sup>

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case further than to make a record of the fact, and take such steps as may be necessary to satisfy themselves that said defective youth shall continue to receive a proper education.

"If it appear to the satisfaction of the county commissioners that the parents of any such defective youth within their county are unable to bear the expense of sending them to said state school, it shall then be the duty of such commissioners to send them at such school at the expense of the county.

"Any parent, guardian, school superintendent or county commissioner who shall fail to carry into effect the provisions of this act shall be deemed guilty of misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not less than \$50 nor more than \$200."

32. Report of the Director, 1889, P. 30.

33. Report of the Board of Trustees, 1890, P. 6.

34. On page 11 of the Seventh Biennial Report of the Oregon State Board of Education, December 31, 1890, appears this paragraph written by Olive M. Capwell, then superintendent of the Oregon Institute for the Blind: "As it is a well





In the year 1891 the department for the blind could boast of but four pupils. These were taught by the instructor of the highest class in the department for the deaf, in addition to his other duties. It was stated in that year's report that, "as the number of blind pupils will in all likelihood increase next term, the employment of a teacher in this class will be necessary."<sup>35</sup> By the next year, 1892, true to the director's prediction, the class of blind students had grown to ten; and they were placed under the care of an accomplished teacher, Miss H. C. Pettit, who remained the only instructor of the blind for seven years before an assistant was granted her. Several of these blind pupils showed considerable musical talent, which they were encouraged to develop; others made noteworthy progress along literary lines, one of these being Robert B. Irwin, now Executive Director of the American Foundation for the Blind.

"It is our purpose," wrote Mr. Watson in one of his reports,<sup>36</sup> "to impart to the pupils of this department a good common school education. And with that object in view the foundations of such training are being faithfully laid. . . . We endeavor to keep these pupils as occupied as possible and to train the hand as well as the mind. Shut in as they are by

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It is a well known fact that parents of the blind children are averse to having them leave home to be educated, and a lamentable one that a few are too ignorant to appreciate the advantages of special work, I have no words to express my anxiety that some law similar to that which the Legislature of Washington adopted at its last session be given us."

35. Report of the Director, 1892, P. 29.

36. Report of the Director, 1896, P. 14.

those homes might be. . . . The defective children appear to

In the year 1901 the Department for the Blind made trials  
of two types of writing. These were taught by the Department of  
the Blind since in the Department for the Blind, in addition  
to the other duties, it was stated in that report that  
"as the number of blind pupils will in all likelihood increase  
next year, the employment of a teacher in this class will be  
necessary." By the year 1901, then, the Department  
predicted, the class of blind students had grown to such an  
extent that they were placed under the name of an established school.  
When H. C. Foster, who remained the only instructor in the class  
the seven years before an assistant was named Mr. Foster.  
Of these blind pupils almost none were of school age, which  
they were encouraged to develop; these were necessary persons  
along literary lines, one of course being Robert H. Foster, now  
Executive Director of the American Foundation for the Blind.  
"It is our purpose," wrote Mr. Foster in one of his  
reports, "to insure to the pupils of this department a good  
common school education, and with this object in view the  
formation of such training as being tactically left . . .  
to endeavor to have these pupils as occupied as possible and to  
train the hand as well as the mind. That is an aim we

know that this report of the Department for the Blind is  
based on the fact that the Department for the Blind is  
now a law and the Department for the Blind is the  
special work, I have no words to express my regret that  
some law should be passed which the Department of Education  
should at the last session be given it."  
88. Report of the Department for the Blind, 1900, p. 121.  
89. Report of the Department for the Blind, 1901, p. 121.



reason of their deprivation of really the most important sense, they are given more to reflection and thought than normal children, and in their studies during the term have done well. They are trained to be self-reliant and are never excused on account of their affliction from what may be any reasonable task, and each one has certain household duties to perform. We treat them as though they were normal children."

The extent to which these objectives of Mr. Watson were realized is shown by a report of a joint Senate and House committee which visited the school in February, 1891 -- the first official committee to inspect the school. The report is also of interest because it gives us a glimpse into the life of the school at that time. In part it reads: "The joint committee appointed to visit the State School for Defective Youth . . . have consumed a whole day in making a thorough examination of the buildings and the methods in conducting the school. We find the building in a beautiful situation on high ground close to, and commanding a full view of, the Columbia River. . . The forty-five pupils now in the school are almost without exception children who are endowed with bright minds and pleasing forms and features. . . Mr. Watson and his family are so managing the school that the pupils lead a happy, joyous life while acquiring a good education and being fitted to become honest, self-supporting citizens. It appears to the committee that the pupils unquestionably enjoy their life in this school better than they would in their homes, no matter how elegant those homes might be. . . The defective children appear to

person of their responsibility of looking after the health of the  
they are given more in relation and change than would  
children, and in their studies during the time they have left.  
They are treated to be well-treated and are never treated as  
amount of their education from what may be any responsibility  
body, and each one has certain responsibilities in relation to  
trust them as though they were normal children.

The extent to which these children of the world were  
realized is shown by a report of a joint committee and board  
committee which stated the school in February, 1903 -- the  
first official committee to inspect the school. The report  
is also of interest because it gives us a glimpse into the life  
of the school at that time. In part it reads: "The joint  
committee appointed to visit the State School for Deaf-Blind  
Children... have conducted a visit to the school in making a report  
examination of the building and the methods in conducting the  
school. We find the building in a beautiful situation on high  
ground close to, and commanding a full view of, the Delaware  
River... The forty-five pupils now in the school are almost  
without exception children who are endowed with talents which  
are leading them to greatness... Mr. Brown and his family  
are so managing the school that the pupils lead a happy, free  
life while enjoying a good education and being fitted to become  
honest, self-respecting citizens. It appears to the committee  
that the pupils undoubtedly enjoy their life in this school  
better than they would in their home, so better for all  
these names with it... The defective children appear to



have a greater thirst for knowledge than is felt by the average children of our common school; and they quickly learn that everything is being managed for their own good; and that their teachers' hearts, as well as their minds, are engaged in their service. . . Your committee would most earnestly and emphatically protest against ever admitting among such children any who are feeble-minded, believing that the presence of such among the deaf, dumb and blind would be greatly detrimental to the latter, without providing any benefits to the former. We would therefore recommend that there be erected by the state a separate building for the education of the feeble-minded."<sup>37</sup>

Upon the suggestion of the committee, the Legislature of 1891 granted \$20,000 to purchase grounds and erect thereupon a building to be used as a school and home for the feeble-minded.<sup>38</sup> Although the law of 1886, creating the State School for Defective Youth, specifically stated that it should be "for the education of the deaf, blind and feeble-minded youth of the State of Washington", nothing had been done up to this time to train feeble-minded children. It was not until December 8, 1892, that a department for the feeble-minded as a branch of the State School for Defective Youth was opened.<sup>39</sup> The law transferring the feeble-minded children to Medical Lake in Eastern Washington, and separating that department from that of the deaf and blind was passed in 1905; but the transfer could not be made until May, 1906, when the buildings at the new location were completed.<sup>40</sup>

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37. Report of the Board of Trustees, 1892, P. 14.

38. Session Laws, 1890, Ch. 1, P. 17; Report of Board of Trustees, 1892, P. 4.

have a greater effect for knowledge than is felt by the average  
 citizen at our common schools; and this feeling is true every-  
 where. It is being manifest that their own people, and that their people,  
 heart, as well as their minds, are engaged in their studies.  
 Your committee would most earnestly and respectfully request  
 that every member of your committee should be so fully in-  
 formed, believing that the progress of each among the great  
 and that they would be greatly interested in the latter, without  
 providing any facilities for the former. We would therefore recom-  
 mend that there be created by the state a separate building for  
 the education of the people-minded.  
 Upon the recommendation of the committee, the Legislature of  
 1881 passed \$11,000 to purchase grounds and erect buildings  
 which to be used as a school and home for the people-minded.  
 Although the law of 1881, created the State School for Deaf-  
 mute, specifically stated that it should be "for the education  
 of the deaf, blind and feeble-minded youth of the State of Wis-  
 consin," nothing had been said of its aim to train feeble-  
 minded children. It was not until December 8, 1881, that a  
 department for the feeble-minded was formed by the State School  
 for Deaf-mute Youth was opened. The law transferred the  
 feeble-minded children to Medical Lake in Eastern Wisconsin,  
 and regarding that department from that of the deaf and blind  
 was passed in 1903; but the transfer could not be made until  
 May, 1904, when the children at the new location were completed.



That there has always existed a close friendship between the Washington and Oregon schools for the blind is apparent to one familiar with the history of both institutions. Washington, being the more populous, has had an important influence on the Oregon School.<sup>41</sup> It has already been pointed out that Oregon's compulsory education law for blind children can be traced to Washington legislation of an earlier date. In 1900 Governor Geer of Oregon, with his state board of education, visited the Washington School "for the purpose of gaining information as to the conduct of this institution". "We have gained much that we can use," wrote the Governor. "The work here is equal and superior to that of a great many similar institutions in this country. Professor Watson is fully alive to the interests and welfare of the unfortunate children given to his care, and his great work speaks for itself, especially to those who take the time to visit the institution."<sup>42</sup>

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39. Session Laws, 1905, Ch. 139, P. 254.

40. Hon. W. Cochran, "Washington State Institutions", 1915, P. 23.

41. It is not out of place to state further relationships between the two schools. Since the Washington School for the Blind inaugurated a four-year high school course in 1920, there being only a three year secondary course offered by the Oregon institution, a number of blind students from Oregon have come to the Washington school to finish their training. The present superintendent of the Oregon Institute for the Blind, Mr. Walter R. Dry, taught at the Washington School for ten years prior to his going to Oregon. In recent years social events, principally in the form of dances, have been given jointly by the two schools. This spirit of friendship existing between these two institutions is indeed admirable.

42. The Vancouver Independent, 1900; also, Report of the Director, 1900, P. 28.

and govern all the public institutions of the state, and examine into their system of management, and their conduct of business and expenditures and financial management generally. "It shall be the further duty of the Board of General Examiners to examine into the condition and needs of these institutions.

That there has always existed a close friendship between the Washington and Oregon schools for the blind is apparent in the regular visits and exchange of visits between the two institutions. The more personal, has had an important influence on the Oregon school, it has always been pointed out that Washington's educational law for blind children and its school for Washington's legislation of an earlier date. In 1900 Governor West of Oregon, with the state board of education, visited the Washington school "for the purpose of studying the organization as to the conduct of this institution." The law passed which that we saw that, under the Governor, "The work here is good and superior to that of a great many similar institutions in this country. From our return is fully alive to the importance and welfare of the unfortunate children given to his care, and his great work speaks for itself, especially to those who take the time to visit the institution."

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37. Special Law, 1905, Ch. 139, p. 284.  
38. West, W. C. "Washington State Institutions," 1905, p. 28.  
39. It is not as clear as the Oregon legislation between the two schools. Since the Washington school for the blind inaugurated a four-year high school course in 1905, there being only a three-year secondary course offered by the Oregon institution, a number of blind students from Oregon have come to the Washington school to finish their training. The progress reported at the Oregon Institute for the Blind, Mr. Walter R. Gray, former of the Washington school for the past years prior to his coming to Oregon, in recent years social events, especially in the type of dances, have been given largely by the two schools. This spirit of co-operation existing between the two institutions is indeed admirable.  
40. The Governor's Inaugural, 1900, also, report of the Governor, 1900, p. 28.



Chapter 119, Laws of 1901,<sup>43</sup> created the State Board of Control as successor of the Board of Audit and Control, and defined its powers and duties, making it the governing, managing and purchasing authority for the six charitable, reformatory and penal institutions in existence at that time. However, the school for the deaf and the blind was not put under its jurisdiction until 1909.

The combination of the school for the feeble-minded with that of the blind and deaf was naturally detrimental to the latter, and inimical to its proper development. Realizing this, Ernest Lister, then chairman of the board of control and later Governor of the state, recommended to the legislature of 1903 that the feeble-minded children of the state be established at another point, that the blind be segregated from the deaf and that the former be given the quarters then occupied by the feeble-minded.<sup>44</sup> His board further recommended that the name of the School for Defective Youth be changed to State School for the Deaf and Blind. Although these recommendations were

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43. Chapter 119, Session Laws, 1901 -- "The Governor . . . shall, by and with the advice of the Senate, appoint a bi-partisan board consisting of three citizens of the state, not more than two of whom shall belong to the dominant political party, as members of a board known as the State Board of Control. The members of said board shall hold office, as designed by the governor, for two, four and six years respectively, and may be removed by the governor at his discretion. . . . Each member of said board shall receive a salary of \$3000 per annum. . . . The Board of Control shall assume its duties on April 1, 1901.

"The State Board of Control shall have full power to manage and govern all the public institutions of the state, and examine into their system of accounts, and their sources of income and expenditures and financial management generally. "It shall be the further duty of the Board of Control to examine into the conditions and needs of these institutions,

Chapter III, Section 10, 1911, provided that the State Board of Control be composed of the Board of Health and Health Officers, and defined the powers and duties, making it the responsibility of the Board of Health to see that the Board of Control be organized and that the Board of Health be organized in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Chapter III, Section 10, 1911, provided that the State Board of Control be organized and that the Board of Health be organized in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Section 10, 1911.

The constitution of the Board of Control for the State of New York, Chapter III, Section 10, 1911, provided that the Board of Control be composed of the Board of Health and Health Officers, and defined the powers and duties, making it the responsibility of the Board of Health to see that the Board of Control be organized and that the Board of Health be organized in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Chapter III, Section 10, 1911, provided that the State Board of Control be organized and that the Board of Health be organized in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Chapter III, Section 10, 1911, provided that the State Board of Control be composed of the Board of Health and Health Officers, and defined the powers and duties, making it the responsibility of the Board of Health to see that the Board of Control be organized and that the Board of Health be organized in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Chapter III, Section 10, 1911, provided that the State Board of Control be organized and that the Board of Health be organized in accordance with the provisions of the Act.



not followed at this session, they were adopted by the 1905 Legislature, after having been presented by another board.

The law provided for a division of the State School for Defective Youth <sup>45</sup> and renamed the institution the State School for the Deaf and Blind.<sup>46</sup> A new institution, to be known thereafter as the State Institution for the Feeble-Minded, was established at Medical Lake in Eastern Washington, as already related.

1905 was also the last year of Mr. Watson's administration. It is a strange circumstance that with the termination of the State School for Defective Youth Mr. Watson's career as director ended. The man who had nursed the institution through the trying years of infancy, who alone was responsible for its growth over a period of nineteen long years, remained in office only a few months after the name of the school was changed. His removal was a keen disappointment to the deaf and blind children of the institution, under whose watchful guidance they had received instruction for many years.<sup>47</sup>

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and on or before the first of December of the year preceding the session of the legislature, report in writing to the Governor the conditions of each of said institutions, and what sum of money it deems advisable to appropriate for its maintenance.

"It shall be the duty of the board to appoint a chief executive officer for each of the public institutions under its control, who shall devote his entire time to the duties of his office and whose title shall be Superintendent. . ."

44. Hon. W. Cochran, "Washington State Institutions", 1915, P. 23.

45. Session Laws, 1905, Ch. 70, P. 133.

46. Session Laws, 1905, Ch. 139, P. 254.

47. Mr. Watson became superintendent of the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind after leaving the Washington School.

48. The Washingtonian, December 20, 1907.

49. The Washingtonian, June 1, 1908.





### III

Mr. Watson's successor, Thomas P. Clarke, a much younger man, took over the duties of director in December, 1906. The progress of the School for the Deaf and Blind under his administration was of such a character as to disprove the charges made at the time of his appointment, alleging that he was selected solely for political reasons without regard for his fitness for the position.<sup>48</sup> Governor Albert E. Mead and the state board of control were subjected to severe criticism as the result of Mr. Clarke's appointment; a strong effort was made to coerce them to retain Mr. Watson. But to place the school on a higher plane, the Governor and board of control felt the need for infusion of young blood.<sup>49</sup> Clarke's qualifications were such as to convince them of his fitness. That he was not a voter of the state when the position was tendered him, it would appear that his selection was not political.

The condition in which Mr. Clarke found the institution was hardly credible. One hundred and thirty deaf and blind children were crowded into a building originally planned to accommodate about seventy-five. There were no halls above the first floor, a situation most inconvenient since the school rooms were on the third floor. The girls from the highest grade had to pass through every class room in the building except that occupied by the blind, which was the very last

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48. The Washingtonian, December 20, 1907.

49. The West Virginia Tablet, June 1, 1907.

Mr. Nathan's testimony, Thomas J. Nathan, a well known  
 man, took over the office of Nathan's son, and  
 Governor of the School for the Deaf and Blind under his admin-  
 istration was of such a character as to disprove the charges  
 made on the part of the Government, and the charges  
 against Nathan. The political character of the charges  
 against Nathan for the position, Governor Albert B. Wood and the  
 Board of Control were subjected to severe criticism as  
 the result of Mr. Nathan's testimony; a severe attack was  
 made on the part of the Board of Control, and the charges  
 against the Board of Control, the Governor and Board of Control  
 left the need for the charges in your mind. The charges  
 against the Board of Control were in substance that the Board  
 was not a body to be taken into consideration and that  
 the charges against the Board of Control were not political.

The position in which Mr. Clarke found the institution  
 was hardly satisfactory. The institution and thirty deaf and blind  
 children were under the charge of a single person, and the  
 institution was in a state of confusion. The charges against  
 the Board of Control were in substance that the Board  
 was not a body to be taken into consideration and that  
 the charges against the Board of Control were not political.



room; in like manner the blind children had to do the same or pass down the fire escape to get out of school. One of the teachers had to use the fire escape whenever he went to his bedroom. It was estimated by Mr. Clarke that each of the older girls in the deaf department had to climb forty-eight flights of stairs daily in the discharge of her ordinary duties.<sup>50</sup> This situation was soon relieved, however, by transferring the blind to the building recently vacated by the feeble-minded children, and the construction of Mead Hall, used exclusively by the deaf -- the actual, but not legal, separation of the blind from the deaf. At the time of the transfer, the population of the blind department had grown to thirty-one, sixteen of whom had become afflicted with loss of sight at the age of one year or less. By 1908, two years later, the enrollment had increased to thirty-seven.

Mr. Clarke realized that an essential part in the education of the deaf and the blind is the education of the public. Accordingly, in order that the purpose of the institution might become better known, he seized every opportunity to speak before public gatherings. In an address at Port Townsend before a convention of the State Federation of Women's Clubs, he outlined the aims of the institution: "What is the object of our school? It is to fit these handicapped children to take care of themselves, to make self-respecting, self-supporting citizens of the children sent to us. The money spent by the State is not given in charity at all, but is invested with the sure hope of a bountiful return.

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50. The Washingtonian, May 26, 1906.

room; in the morning the first children ran to the door to  
pass down the line, and in the afternoon, the same  
teachers had to see the first children down the line  
down, it was estimated by Mr. White that down at the  
circle in the hall department had in which twenty-five  
of active daily in the department of the children's  
This situation was soon relieved, however, by transferring the  
point to the building recently opened by the Federal  
children, and the construction of the hall, used exclusively  
by the first in the school, but the school, separated at the  
kind two the hall. At the time of the department, the  
him of the first department, the same as the school, and  
of them and the first department with him of the school  
the year or later, by 1900, the school, the school  
had increased to fifty-four.

Mr. White stated that on several days in the afternoon  
of the school and the first in the department of the school, and  
first, in order that the purpose of the investigation should become  
better known, he asked every opportunity to speak before public  
gatherings. In an address at last presented before a convention  
of the State Federation of Women's Clubs, he outlined the aims of  
the investigation. "What is the object of our research? It is to  
the first department children in the school, and  
make self-remembering, self-remembering children of the children  
and so on. The money spent by the State is not given to the  
at all, but is invested with the State of a beneficial return.



The State expects to get its returns from the children who are taken from the ranks of dependants and lost sight of among the army of producers. The purpose of every school for the deaf and blind is to equip the child for the life they are to lead. To do this we must aim definitely to make the graduated self-supporting. More should be expected from this class than from the seeing and hearing. . . . " At another public gathering he described the object of the school in this manner: "Let me impress upon you that this is a school and nothing else. It is not a home nor an asylum in any sense of the term. . . . Unfortunately this institution is not legally a part of the public school system of this State, but it should be. This school is the attempt to fulfill the constitutional pledge to give to each child a free common school education, it being cheaper to bring these deficient children here and board them than to furnish special teachers at their homes and the results obtained are better. We take up the work where the public school fails, and carry it on to a successful ending."<sup>51</sup>

So effective were Director Clarke's public speeches that the Tenth Legislature of the State of Washington was willing to place his institution on a business basis and to spend the money necessary to do this. It appropriated \$111,350 on April 1, 1907, increasing the maintenance from \$162 to \$252 yearly per capita. This permitted many changes and improvements, chief among which was an increased number of teachers in both departments.<sup>52</sup> regular literary work of the school. . . . The children are

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51. The Washingtonian, December 20, 1907.

52. The Washingtonian, March 29, 1907.

53. The Seattle Sunday Times, November 6, 1908.





Mr. Clarke also won the favorable support of newspapers throughout the State. In a Sunday issue of the Seattle Times,<sup>53</sup> appeared this interesting survey of the work carried out at the school at that time: "Clarke is a great believer in the religion of work. He works himself and everyone around him works. Every child in the school, both deaf and blind, has some work assigned which is suited to his or her physical ability. A well-equipped industrial plant is connected with the school and each child is given instruction in some of the various trades taught. . . The little folks do chores. It is interesting to see the air of importance which the six or seven-year olds go about their duty. . . The blind boys carry stove wood and kindling to the kitchen. . . The blind girls wash and dry dishes and make beds. There is something doing every moment of the day, from rising time at 6 a.m., till bedtime, which varies from 7 p.m. for the little folks to 9 p.m. for the older children. . . The children are as enthusiastic in their play as could be wished. The blind children have been skating on rollers for more than a year and no accidents have occurred. . . . The blind play hard among themselves. Sprinting, jumping, putting the shot, lifting weights, etc., are well done and enjoyed by these sightless ones. . . The blind learn chair caning, hammock making, piano tuning, typewriting, music, sewing, crocheting, knitting, cooking and housework, in addition to the regular literary work of the school. . . The children are taught to be as nearly independent as possible, and learn to

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<sup>53</sup>. The Seattle Sunday Times, November 6, 1908.

[illegible]



do many things without help which seem little short of marvelous to the average visitor."

It was inevitable that Mr. Clarke's dynamic personality and great energy should win the full support of the Legislature. Through his insistence the 1908 session passed legislation of importance to the education of blind and deaf children of Washington. By an act<sup>54</sup> it placed the State School for the Deaf and Blind under the complete management of the State Board of Control,<sup>55</sup> changed the opening and closing date of the term, stated the qualifications of the superintendent,<sup>56</sup> and provided separate appropriations for the deaf and blind departments.<sup>57</sup>

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54. Session Laws, 1909, Ch. 97, P. 258 -- "The State School for the Deaf and Blind shall be under the direction of the State Board of Control; the funds for its maintenance shall be appropriated by the legislature of the State of Washington.

"The regular term of said school shall begin on the second Wednesday of September, and close the second Wednesday of the following June.

"The institution shall be free to residents of the State of Washington who are between the ages of six and twenty-one and who are deaf and blind, or either deaf or blind; provided that they are free from loathsome and contagious diseases.

"The State Board of Control may admit to this school deaf and blind children from other states, but the parents or guardians of such children will be required to pay annually or quarterly in advance a sufficient amount to cover the cost of maintaining and educating such children.

"The superintendent shall be appointed by the State Board of Control for a term of four years, subject to removal at the discretion of the Board of Control. Said superintendent must not be less than thirty nor more than seventy years of age and must be practically acquainted with the school management and class instruction of the deaf and blind, having had at least ten years actual experience in teaching in schools for the deaf and blind. The superintendent shall have powers to appoint all subordinates. The State Board of Control shall have power to fix the number of employees and the salary paid each and may discharge any employee at its discretion.

"It shall be the duty of each county school superintendent to make a report of such blind and deaf youth to county commissioners of his county each year."

to the average visitor."

It was accordingly that Mr. Clark's position was that the State was not to be bound by the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of *Ex parte* *Clark*, and that the State was to be bound by the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of *Ex parte* *Clark*.

is authorized by the Legislature of the State of Washington  
State Board of Control; the funds for its maintenance shall  
the best and most efficient use of the  
the State School for  
The State School for

It appears a sufficient amount to cover the cost of maintenance for and a working copy of the same.

[illegible]



However, separate institutions were not created.<sup>58</sup> Members of the Board of Control, after visiting both departments on April 25, 1908, appointed as principal of the school for the blind, under the superintendency of Mr. Clarke, Mr. George H. Mullen, who had formerly been in charge of the blind department.

Life at the school under the new principal continued quietly until the opening months of 1911, when members of the House of Representatives visited the institution. Finding numerous inadequacies, they described before a session of the House the existing conditions of the school, severely criticizing the State Board of Control and the administration, and even suggesting that the Board be subject for investigation by the Legislature on the grounds of neglect. A bill appropriating \$50,000 for the construction of a new building for the blind

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55. (A) What was formerly the State Board of Control was later changed to the State Department of Business Control. In April, 1935, the Department of Business Control and the Department of Efficiency consolidated, and became known as the Department of Finance, Budget and Business.
- (B) The frequent question as to why the state schools for the deaf and blind are under the management of the State Board of Control (now the Department of Finance, Budget and Business) rather than under the State Department of Education, since they are essentially educational institutions, may be answered by saying that the State Department of Education is purely administrative in character and does not handle any financial matters whatever in regard to public schools or various state institutions. The advantage claimed for a state board of control in having complete charge over the state's charitable, eleemosynary and educational institutions is that it secures greater economy and more equitable appropriations. There is, however, good reason why the direction of education in the penal and corrective institutions of the state, as well as in the state supported custodial school for defective children, should be under the State Department of Education. It is the hope of the present head of the State Department of Education that legislation will be passed in the near future authorizing his department to have general supervision of educational activities of such institutions.

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Life of the school under the new national curriculum

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22. (a) ... was formerly the State Board of Control was later

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was presented, followed by a dramatic scene.<sup>59</sup> Speaker Taylor of the House called Representative Beach of Mason County to the Chair, who went on the floor to urge the passage of the bill. The touching oratory which ensued was said to have affected all who heard. "Is there a member in this House," he was reported to have said, "who has visited this institution without it bringing the tears to his eyes; he must have a heart of stone. These poor, helpless, little children are sent to this school between the ages of four and six years. They are a charge that this state should provide with the most tender care, and the fact that this is in its present condition is a disgrace to the State of Washington. We cannot make a mistake when we appropriate money to care for these blind children." A representative from Spokane then took the floor and described the condition of the school. "There is not a piece of furniture in the entire building," he said, "that I would have in the basement of my house. The building is<sup>so</sup> dilapidated that it is a disgrace to all for it to continue to be used. I presume the only reason these children were put in such a building was because those responsible thought they were blind and unable to see their surroundings. The beds are all broken down and unfit for the use of human beings, and I find that during the past year the Board of Control has made<sup>no</sup> but one visit to the school, and this lasted only a few minutes. at the highest level

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- their senses.
56. The name "Director" was changed to "Superintendent".
57. The appropriation which the department for the blind received for maintenance, repairs and improvements for this first biennium was \$18,430 -- See, Vancouver Columbian, April 25, '09.
58. Fifth Biennial Report, 1900, P. 140.
59. The Seattle Times, February 25, 1911.

Governor M. M. May's Special Message to the State Legislature, March, 1911.

was presented, followed by a dramatic scene. The speaker began  
of the House called Representative David M. Davis County in the  
Chair, who went on the floor to read the passage of the bill.  
The following courtesy letter should be sent to the House of Representatives  
and House, "It shows a member in this House," he was reported  
to have said, "who has visited this institution without its being  
any the less in its place; he was not a part of it. There  
now, helpless, little children are sent to this school because  
the laws of their own country. They are a shame to this  
state which provide with the best of care, and the fact  
that this is in the present condition is a disgrace to the State  
of Wisconsin. We cannot take a member from an appropriate  
power to have the State House children. A representative from  
Madison took the first and foremost the committee on the  
school. There is not a child at Madison in the entire State.  
It," he said, "that I will have in the future in my house.  
The building is, I indicated that it is a disgrace to all for it  
to continue to be used. I suggest the only reason these children  
were put in such a building was because these representatives thought  
that were blind and unable to see their responsibility. The law  
and all better than and with the law of their father, and  
I find that during the past year the Board of Control has made  
but one visit to the school, and this lasted only a few minutes.

26. The name "Wisconsin" was changed to "Wisconsin."  
27. The appropriation which was designated for the State Hospital  
for maintenance, repairs and improvements for this year  
was \$10,000 -- but, Wisconsin Controller, David M. Davis,  
28. The Wisconsin State, February 22, 1911.  
29. The Wisconsin State, February 22, 1911.



Even though these helpless little children are blind they are modest about undressing before each other, and the superintendent of the school has divided some of the place into stalls which are very dark and gloomy. It is a well known fact that the blind require light even more than people who can see, and so far as my vote is concerned, it will be cast in favor of those blind children." Ennis, of King County, the next speaker, declared the matter should be given a thorough investigation. "Why has such a condition been allowed to continue?" he asked. "We should find out where the responsibility lies, and take drastic action to prevent such gross mismanagement. Such conditions as have been described here are shameful, and if the Board of Control is not managing this school properly, we should know it."

An attempt was also made to remove the school to a more centralized and populous section of the state. Olympia was mentioned prominently for this location; but Governor Hay in a special message to the Legislature recommended the removal of the school from Vancouver to a place adjacent to some higher institution of learning, preferably the University of Washington, at Seattle. "These pupils will thereby be enabled to derive as much benefit from the oral instruction and lectures at the higher institution of learning as if blessed with all their senses."<sup>60</sup>

The outcome of all this oratory was not the removal of the school, but rather, the passage on March 8, 1911, of a

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60. Governor M. E. Hay's Special Message to the State Legislature, March, 1911.





bill appropriating \$50,000 for the building and furnishing two dormitories at the same location, one for boys and one for girls.<sup>61</sup> This was signed by the governor three days later. The dormitories, completed in 1912,<sup>62</sup> are still in use, and probably will be for many years. Both dormitories are alike -- three-story brick structures, containing fifteen bed rooms, of which four can accommodate five persons; six, three persons each, while the remaining seven rooms are large enough for two people. Thus each building has a capacity of approximately fifty occupants. In addition to these living quarters, there are linen rooms, shower rooms, club rooms, and two large play rooms. The boys' and girls' "cottages", as they are improperly called, are located about two hundred feet apart, with the administration and school building (erected in 1915), situated between the two.

In the spring of 1912 Governor M. E. Hay appointed Mrs. J. A. Reed, of Seattle, and Miss May Goldsmith to make a thorough investigation of all the state institutions. The purpose of the investigation was to give the Governor, and through him the public, a fair and non-partisan view of the actual conditions within the institutions. This commission upon visiting the school for the blind, stated in its report:<sup>63</sup> "Gross ignorance was found in a situation generally criticized by the community."

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61. Session Laws, 1911, Ch. 58, P. 318; "The State Board of Control shall erect or cause to be erected on the present site a building or buildings not to exceed \$50,000. There is hereby appropriated out of the general fund of the State for purposes herein above mentioned the sum of \$50,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary."

62. Sixth Biennial Report of the Board of Control, 1912, P. 178.

63. Goldsmith and Reed, "Report of Conditions in Washington Institutions," 1912, P. 29.

will appreciate the fact that the building and foundation for  
 structures at the same location, and the fact that the building  
 This was shown up the present house and the house. The house  
 was, completed in 1912, and still in use, and possibly with  
 by the way here. Both buildings are also — respectively  
 of the structure, containing various and various, of which there are  
 approximately five hundred; also, three hundred and, while the  
 remained seven years and large system for the people. Then with  
 building was a capacity of approximately fifty members. In  
 addition to these three hundred, there are three hundred, three  
 rooms, nine rooms, and two large play rooms. The house and  
 other "buildings", as they are informally called, are located  
 about two hundred feet apart, with the administration and school  
 building (located in 1912), situated between the two.  
 In the spring of 1912, however, A. E. was appointed for a  
 as head of building, and also the building to make a complete  
 investigation of all the state buildings. The purpose of the  
 investigation was to give the Governor, and likewise the  
 public, a fair and non-partisan view of the actual condition  
 within the institutions. This was done upon visiting the  
 school for the blind, stated in the report.<sup>61</sup> These buildings

61. See also the report of the State Board of  
 Control, which states that the building on the present  
 site is building of building and is located on the site  
 is nearly completed. All of the money paid by the State  
 for the purchase of the building is the sum of \$80,000 or  
 so much less as may be necessary.  
 62. State Building at the State of Control, 1912, p. 12.  
 63. Columbia and Co., Report of Conditions in Building  
 Investigation, 1912, p. 12.



on the part of the public regarding the character of several of our state institutions have allowed legislative enactment to include our deaf and blind schools among the charitable institutions of the state. State schools for the deaf and blind are no more charitable institutions than are our city school systems, our state normals, our state university or state agricultural college. The sooner both of these schools become legally recognized as a legitimate part of our state school system, the sooner intelligent parents of the blind and deaf children will take advantage of the educational opportunities afforded by the state, and the sooner the state will receive proper returns upon the money invested."

The population of the school at this time numbered thirty-five -- twenty-one boys and fourteen girls. Twenty-four of these pupils were in the primary department, eight in grammar school, and three attended the Vancouver Public High School. The school work did not carry beyond the eighth grade. The instruction of the literary department was divided between two teachers, neither of whom had had previous preparation for the work. Living within the institution, they received \$540 each for the nine months of school. No physical education program was followed, a situation severely criticized by the Governor's investigation commission. Piano tuning, net work, chair caning and weaving were the subjects offered by the industrial department.

The 1909 Legislature, although providing separate appropriations for the departments of the deaf and the blind, did not create two institutions. One superintendent, Mr. Clarke, management of the School for the Blind hereby created."

on the part of the public regarding the character of several  
of our state institutions have allowed important questions  
to be raised for their consideration. It is necessary  
institutions of the state. It is necessary that the state  
and to secure adequate institutions that are in any way  
systems, our state normal, our state university or state  
technical colleges. The answer must be found within the  
locally organized as a technical part of our state system.  
system, the answer technical part of the state and state  
children will take advantage of the technical institutions  
attended by the state, and the sooner the state will receive  
proper returns upon the money invested."

The committee of the school at this time was made up of  
five — representatives from the Vancouver Board, the  
Vancouver Board is the primary department, which is  
school, and three attended the Vancouver Public High School.  
The school work did not carry beyond the eighth grade. The  
department of the primary department was divided between the  
primary, middle and high school departments for the  
work. During the year the primary, middle and high school  
for the nine months of school, the primary department was  
was followed, a situation severely criticized by the Governor's  
investigation commission. These findings, however, were  
and saying were the results offered by the committee's report.  
The 1905 legislation, although providing no means of  
paraphrase for the Government of the state and the public, the  
and create the institution. The institution, Dr. Clarke,



headed both schools, with George Mullin as the principal of the blind department. Actually the two schools were conducted separately; but legally they were not divided until 1913. At that session of the Legislature a law was passed, and approved by the Governor on February 24th, which provided for complete separation of both schools.<sup>64</sup> Henceforth each institution, no longer a part of the other, was to be an entity in itself, having its own superintendent and its own appropriation. The institution long known as the Washington State School for the Deaf and Blind became extinct; in its place grew two offsprings -- the State School for the Blind, and the State School for the Deaf.

#### IV

The law creating the Washington State School for the Blind went into effect after the close of the school term in June, 1913. On the first of the following September, Mr. W. B. Hall, Superintendent of the Kansas School for the Blind, was selected by the State Board of Control to become the first actual superintendent of the Washington School, after search for a capable specialist had led to practically every State in the Union.

Mr. Hall, then at the age of forty-eight, was recognized as one

Legislature to purchase additional land adjacent to the school

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64. Session Laws, 1913, Ch. 10, P. 6.: "Upon the taking effect of this act, the State School for the Deaf and Blind at Vancouver shall be divided into two institutions, one for the blind to be known as the State School for the Blind, and one for the deaf to be known as the State School for the Deaf, each of said institutions to be located at Vancouver. The State Board of Control shall appoint a superintendent for each institution. All provisions of law relating to the State School for the Deaf and Blind shall, so far as the same are applicable, govern the management of the State School for the Deaf and the State School for the Blind hereby created." also, The Rocky Mountain

labeled for the Blind, and the State School for the Deaf,

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of the foremost men in the work in the United States, having been engaged in the field of education practically all his life. Graduating from the Kansas State Normal, he became a public school teacher, later advancing to the position of city superintendent. In 1906 the superintendency of the Kansas School for the Blind was tendered him; he accepted, and remained in this capacity for seven years. The Board of Control was not informed as to his political faith prior to his coming to Washington, so his selection had no political significance. Mr. Hall held the office of Superintendent of the Washington School for only two years, when he passed away on October 25, 1915.<sup>65</sup>

It was his endeavor to bring about systematic and accurate teaching in all departments of the school, and to provide for the educational needs of the talented and mediocre. "We believe," he wrote, "that the bright children are now better provided for than they ever have been. We know that the mediocre and dull are receiving far more intelligent help and attention."<sup>66</sup> For the first time piano-rebuilding was taught at the school. Physical education was given a place in the curriculum; chicken raising and gardening were encouraged. Mr. Hall urged the Legislature to purchase additional land adjacent to the school, which it did; he pointed out the great need for a new administration building; he recommended that there be appropriated money to enable the blind youth of the state to attend college: "Such provision would simply give the blind youth a pair of eyes and place him on a par with his seeing brother. It would

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65. The Washingtonian, October 2, 1913; also, The Rocky Mountain Leader, November 15, 1913.

of the foremost men in the work in the United States, having been created in the field of education especially in the line, extending from the lowest State School, to the highest level of learning, taking account of the position of the Government. In 1906 the Government of the United States for the first time was organized into a department, and remained in this capacity for many years. The Board of Education was not informed as to any national policy which was being to be followed, so that relations had no national character. Mr. Ball told the public in Washington of the Government's policy for only the year, when he passed away on October 11, 1911. It was his intention to bring about a national and complete education in all departments of the country, and to provide for the educational needs of the children and teachers. The policy, he wrote, "that the child should be the first recipient of the first step of the way. He knew that the children and their parents provided the most intelligent help and assistance." The first step in the organization was taken at the school, subject of education was given a place in the curriculum, which rising and expanding were necessary. Mr. Ball was the initiator in various educational and cultural efforts in the school, which it did; he believed that the first step was a new administrative policy; he recommended that there be representative money to enable the child to be able to attend school. "The first step is to give the child a fair start in life and give him a job with his learning power. It would



also give inspiration to youth of ability for scholarship in our school and say to him: 'The windows are open, the light of knowledge will be bright to you by a great State, attain!'"<sup>67</sup>

But Mr. Hall's outstanding achievement during his short tenure of office was the establishment of a summer school for adult blind, the second in America.<sup>68</sup> The 1915 Legislature appropriated \$800 for this purpose, the first time that the State of Washington ever made provision for teaching the adult blind. The summer course included hammock making, chair caning, broom making, type-writing, piano tuning and repairing for men, and sewing and crocheting for women. All board, room, laundry and industrial supplies were furnished without charge by the school; the only cost to those attending was transportation.<sup>69</sup> Over twenty took advantage of the course the first session. Summer school was abandoned (1920), however, after a few years of trial, for the reason that the institution was so far away from the large cities where the adult blind congregate, thus requiring a heavy outlay for transportation. Then, too, the isolation of the school buildings nearly a mile and a half from

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66. Seventh Biennial Report of the Board of Control, 1915, P. 127.

67. (A) Through the recommendations of Mr. Hall at an earlier date, the Legislature of Kansas enacted in 1915 a bill providing for the employment of sighted readers for blind students.

67. (B) The 1935 session of the Washington State Legislature passed a law allowing \$250. a year and free tuition and laboratory fees to blind students attending institutions of higher learning in the state. This is the first legislation enacted in Washington in behalf of blind students desirous of pursuing higher education.

68. Minnesota was the first state to establish a summer school for the adult blind. In 1916 James J. Dow, then Superintendent of the Minnesota School for the Blind, had this to

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the main part of Vancouver made it a lonely place for the blind to have amusement other than that afforded by themselves.<sup>70</sup>

Upon the sudden death of Mr. Hall in October 1915, Mrs. Sadie Hall, his wife, was appointed superintendent of the school, the second woman in Washington to become head of a state institution. A woman of splendid intellectual attainments, strong character, and endowed with executive ability, Mrs. Hall was able to carry on the policies of her husband. Before her marriage Mrs. Hall had been a primary teacher; her experience as matron of the Kansas and Washington schools for the blind and as help-mate of her husband during many years of educational work qualified her for the strenuous duties which she now shouldered.

At the beginning of her superintendency there were twenty employees at the school, including teachers.<sup>71</sup> Sixty-three students were in attendance, of whom King County furnished approximately a fifth. The valuation of the school property was appraised at \$68,162.<sup>72</sup>

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say about the Washington summer school: "It is worthy to note that the State of Washington has followed the example of this State in establishing summer school for its blind men and women. These have been maintained, and I am assured, successfully maintained, during the last two summers in that State." -- Nineteenth Biennial Report of the Minnesota School for the Blind, 1916, P. 15.

69. The Walla Walla Union, January 22, 1915.

70. Tenth Biennial Report, 1920, P. 30.

71. The present head of the Teachers' Appointment Service of the University of Washington tells an interesting story about one of these teachers. It seems that at a time when bobbed hair for women was in infancy, still in a stage where it was regarded as a social outrage, a senior at the University of Washington dared to be the first in that institution to have her hair bobbed. Upon graduation she sought a teaching

the school year in 1901-1902 was made in a timely place for the

school to have increased income from the sale of the property.

From the balance sheet of the school for the year 1901-1902,

which will, the year, was a statement of the

school, the school year is the same as the school year 1901-1902.

State Treasurer, it is found that the school year 1901-1902

showed a balance of \$1,000.00 in the school year 1901-1902.

and this is the same as the balance of the school year 1901-1902.

From the balance sheet of the school for the year 1901-1902,

as shown of the Kansas and Washington schools for the year

and as indicated of the school year 1901-1902, the school year

showed a balance of \$1,000.00 in the school year 1901-1902.

At the beginning of her superintendency there were twenty

teachers at the school, including teachers, VI. Fifty-three

teachers were in attendance, of whom King County furnished

seventeen teachers. The valuation of the school property

was valued at \$58,182.75.

It is worthy to

note that the school year 1901-1902 has followed the example

of the school year 1900-1901, and the school year 1901-1902

has followed the example of the school year 1900-1901, and the school year 1901-1902

has followed the example of the school year 1900-1901, and the school year 1901-1902

has followed the example of the school year 1900-1901, and the school year 1901-1902

has followed the example of the school year 1900-1901, and the school year 1901-1902

has followed the example of the school year 1900-1901, and the school year 1901-1902



The recommendation which Mr. Hall had made that the Legislature appropriate money for a new administration building was realized in 1915 when \$75,000 was set aside for that purpose. The 1913 Legislature had appropriated an identical sum for the same purpose, but this had been vetoed by the governor.<sup>73</sup> Architects from Spokane and Vancouver were commissioned to draw the plans of the building; the contract for its erection was let to S. C. Erickson, of Tacoma. Formal opening took place in December 1916.<sup>74</sup>

The administration building, located at the center of the grounds, between and to the front of the boys and girls dormitories, is an imposing brick structure as splendid looking today as it was at its construction. An expanse of rolling lawns, several tall, rambling black-walnut trees, shrubs of various size and color, bed after bed of flowers lend an additional touch of beauty. The administration building has three floors and a full basement. In the basement is a large and well-equipped gymnasium, boys' and girls' shower and locker rooms, the school library (originally intended for a swimming pool), domestic science rooms, science laboratory and store rooms. On the main floor is the superintendent's living quarters, administration offices, reception rooms, guest rooms, dining rooms for students, employees and teachers, kitchen, bakery, and sewing and provision rooms. The second floor contains the chapel and all the school and practice rooms. Sleeping quarters of the staff occupy the

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position through the Teacher's Appointment Service. But no school board would employ her because of her bobbed hair. Finally, as a last resort, the Service got in touch with

The building is a two-story structure, with the main entrance on the north side. The building is constructed of brick and has a flat roof. The interior of the building is divided into several rooms, including a large hall, a library, a gymnasium, and a cafeteria. The building is well-maintained and provides a safe and secure environment for the students.

1941, as a last resort, and advised that they were  
not to be used in any way.



whole of the third floor. The administration building is well constructed, modern in almost every sense, a structure that the citizens of Washington might rightly be proud of.

A second building completed while Mrs. Hall served as superintendent, was the boys' industrial building, costing \$10,000 and erected in 1918. One story high, and of brick, it stands about thirty yards behind the boys' dormitory. Here is carried out all the varied activity of the boys industrial department -- broom making, piano tuning and repairing, wood work, chair caning, furniture making, etc. Five practice piano-tuning rooms, a place to store lumber, a piano-repair room, a wood work room, and a broom shop -- all well-equipped -- house these activities. There is also an office and store room.

Superintendents of schools for the blind are prone to give too much space in their reports to the physical, material aspects of the institution they represent, as, the construction of power plants, the fencing of grounds, erection of buildings; too little space is devoted to the achievements of former pupils, the one thing which really indicates success of the school. Both Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Chapman, the only women superintendents of the Washington School, have emphasized the attainments of graduates. Their reports tell in glowing terms what former students are doing. "We are proud of the standings of many of our graduates  
served as presidents  
for the Blind from 1

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Mrs. Hall, and the young woman was hired at the State School for the Blind, where neither long nor short hair had any affect upon the students.

72. Hon. W. Cochran, "Washington State Institutions", 1915, P. 23.

73. Session Laws, 1915, Chap. 12, P. 11.

whole of the third floor. The administration building is well  
distributed, within in almost every corner, a staircase leads  
the citizens of Washington might rightly be proud of.  
A second building completed within four years, serving as  
superintendent, was the first, industrial building, meeting  
\$10,000 and erected in 1914. The other side, and of which, it  
stands about thirty yards behind the main building. There is  
devoted not all the varied activity of the first industrial  
department -- from making, glass making and weaving, and  
work, cloth making, furniture making, etc. Five hundred  
almost-fifty rooms, a place to store lumber, a piano-repair  
room, a room with room, and a room with all well-equipped  
-- house these activities. There is also an office and storage  
room.

Superintendents of schools for the blind are given the power  
too much space in their reports is the physical, technical aspects  
of the institution they represent, as, the determination of power  
classes, the teaching of grammar, reading of handwriting, too little  
space is devoted to the development of lower pupils, the one  
thing which really indicates progress of the school, both the  
Hall and Mrs. Thompson, the only women superintendents of the  
Washington School, have emphasized the educational of students.  
Their reports tell in glowing terms that lower students are  
doing. "We are proud of the progress of many of our students

Mrs. Hall, and the young women who lived at the home  
school for the blind, whose mother had not even half  
had any effect upon the students.  
W. H. W. Cochrane, "Washington State Institutions", 1914, p. 11.  
70. Boston Law, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 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3406, 3407, 3408, 3409, 3410, 3411, 3412, 3413, 3414, 3415, 3416, 3417, 3418, 3419, 3420, 3421, 3422, 3423, 3424, 3425, 3426, 3427, 3428, 3429, 3430, 3431, 3432, 3433, 3434, 3435, 3436, 3437, 3438, 3439, 3440, 3441, 3442, 3443, 3444, 3445, 3446, 3447, 3448, 3449, 3450, 3451, 3452, 3453, 3454, 3455, 3456, 3457, 3458, 3459, 3460, 3461, 3462, 3463, 3464, 3465, 3466, 3467, 3468, 3469, 3470, 3471, 3472, 3473, 3474, 3475, 3476, 3477, 3478, 3479, 3480, 3481, 3482, 3483, 3484, 3485, 3486, 3487, 3488, 3489, 3490, 3491, 3492, 3493, 3494, 3495, 3496, 3497, 3498, 3499, 3500, 3501, 3502, 3503, 3504, 3505, 3506, 3507, 3508, 3509, 3510, 3511, 3512, 3513, 3514, 3515, 3516, 3517, 3518, 3519, 3520, 3521, 3522, 3523, 3524, 3525, 3526, 3527, 3528, 3529, 3530, 3531, 3532, 3533, 3534, 3535, 3536, 3537, 3538, 3539, 3540, 3541, 3542, 3543, 3544, 3545, 3546, 3547, 3548, 3549, 3550, 3551, 3552, 3553, 3554, 3555, 3556, 3557, 3558, 3559, 3560, 3561, 3562, 3563, 3564, 3565, 3566, 3567, 3568, 3569, 3570, 3571, 3572, 3573, 3574, 3575, 3576, 3577, 3578, 3579, 3580, 3581, 3582, 3583, 3584, 3585, 3586, 3587, 3588, 3589, 3590, 3591, 3592, 3593, 3594, 3595, 3596, 3597, 3598, 3599, 3600, 3601, 3602, 3603, 3604, 3605, 3606, 3607, 3608, 3609, 3610, 3611, 3612, 3613, 3614, 3615, 3616, 3617, 3618, 3619, 3620, 3621, 3622, 3623, 3624, 3625, 3626, 3627, 3628, 3629, 3630, 3631, 3632, 3633, 3634, 3635, 3636, 3637, 3638, 3639, 3640, 3641, 3642, 3643, 3644, 3645, 3646, 3647, 3648, 3649, 3650, 3651, 3652, 3653, 3654, 3655, 3656, 3657, 3658, 3659, 3660, 3661, 3662, 3663, 3664, 3665, 3666, 3667, 3668, 3669, 3670, 3671, 3672, 3673, 3674, 3675, 3676, 3677, 3678, 3679, 3680, 3681, 3682, 3683, 3684, 3685, 3686, 3687, 3688, 3689, 3690, 3691, 3692, 3693, 3694, 3695, 3696, 3697, 3698, 3699, 3700, 3701, 3702, 3703, 3704, 3705, 3706, 3707, 3708, 3709, 3710, 3711, 3712, 3713, 3714, 3715, 3716, 3717, 3718, 3719, 3720, 3721, 3722, 3723, 3724, 3725, 3726, 3727, 3728, 3729, 3730, 3731, 3732, 3733, 3734, 3735, 3736, 3737, 3738, 3739, 3740, 3741, 3742, 3743, 3744, 3745, 3746, 3747, 3748, 3749, 3750, 3751, 3752, 3753, 3754, 3755, 3756, 3757, 3758, 3759, 3760, 3761, 3762, 3763, 3764, 3765, 3766, 3767, 3768, 3769, 3770, 3771, 3772, 3773, 3774, 3775, 3776, 3777, 3778, 3779, 3780, 3781, 3782, 3783, 3784, 3785, 3786, 3787, 3788, 3789, 3790, 3791, 3792, 3793, 3794, 3795, 3796, 3797, 3798, 3799, 3800, 3801, 3802, 3803, 3804, 3805, 3806, 3807, 3808, 3809, 3810, 3811, 3812, 3813, 3814, 3815, 3816, 3817, 3818, 3819, 3820, 3821, 3822, 3823, 3824, 3825, 3826, 3827, 3828, 3829, 3830, 3831, 3832, 3833, 3834, 3835, 3836, 3837, 3838, 3839, 3840, 3841, 3842, 3843, 3844, 3845, 3846, 3847, 3848, 3849, 3850, 3851, 3852, 3853, 3854, 3855, 3856, 3857, 3858, 3859, 3860, 3861, 3862, 3863, 3864, 3865, 3866, 3867, 3868, 3869, 3870, 3871, 3872, 3873, 3874, 3875, 3876, 3877, 3878, 3879, 3880, 3881, 3882, 3883, 3884, 3885, 3886, 3887, 3888, 3889,



of this school and often refer before the children to the record made by our own boys and girls who call this school their Alma Mater," writes Mrs. Hall.<sup>75</sup> "Among the ones whom we delight to honor are the following: Mr. Robert Irwin, once a student here and now doing a splendid work for his fellows in Ohio. In 1909 after graduating from Harvard University, Mr. Irwin was called to Cleveland by the city Board of Education to become supervisor of classes for the blind in the Cleveland public schools. During the year 1912 there was added to his work the supervision of similar work in Cincinnati and Toledo. Mr. Irwin's experimentation in the public school education of the blind is proving to be an unusually valuable contribution to the methods of educating the blind. Later Mr. George Meyers took first honors at the Vancouver High School and then won a \$450 scholarship for excellent work at the University of Washington. Since his graduation he has been engaged in the high school work at Cleveland. Two years ago another of our young men, Mr. Lyle Von Ericksen, of Hillyard, after graduating at the Vancouver High School went to the University at Seattle and took first in chemistry.<sup>76</sup> I am pleased to record these facts

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74. The Vancouver Sun, December 1, 1916.

75. Tenth Biennial Report, 1920, P. 306.

76. These three men are the most distinguished graduates of the Washington School. Since 1913 Mr. Irwin has been instrumental in promoting sight saving work in this country. He served as president of the American Workers Association for the Blind from 1923-27; from 1923-29 as director of the Bureau of Research and Education of the American Foundation for the Blind; and since 1929 as executive director of that organization. He acted as chairman of the sub-committee on the Visually Handicapped of Ex-President Hoover's White House Conference in 1930, and has written books relative to the blind. George F. Myers is now Supervisor of the blind in

of this school and other schools in the district in the  
recent years by the new laws and rules and regulations  
which have been passed, and which are now being  
we believe to be the best in the district, and we  
a student body and are doing a splendid work in the  
in 1900. In 1901 after graduation from Harvard University,  
Mr. Smith was called to Washington by the city board of education  
to become supervisor of schools and the first in the district  
while working. During the year 1901-1902 he was  
with the supervision of schools and in 1903-1904 and 1905.  
Mr. Smith's reputation in the public school system of  
the city is such that he is generally regarded as one of the  
to the schools of education in the city. Later Mr. Smith  
took first place in the examination for the position of  
first supervisor for excellent work at the University of Wash-  
ington. Since his graduation he has been engaged in the  
school work of the district. The year 1906-1907 he was  
and, Mr. Smith was engaged in the district, and during  
the Washington High School year in the University at Seattle and  
took first in the district. I am pleased to record these facts

44. The Washington High School, 1900-1901.  
45. The Washington High School, 1901-1902.  
46. The Washington High School, 1902-1903.  
47. The Washington High School, 1903-1904.  
48. The Washington High School, 1904-1905.  
49. The Washington High School, 1905-1906.  
50. The Washington High School, 1906-1907.  
51. The Washington High School, 1907-1908.  
52. The Washington High School, 1908-1909.  
53. The Washington High School, 1909-1910.  
54. The Washington High School, 1910-1911.  
55. The Washington High School, 1911-1912.  
56. The Washington High School, 1912-1913.  
57. The Washington High School, 1913-1914.  
58. The Washington High School, 1914-1915.  
59. The Washington High School, 1915-1916.  
60. The Washington High School, 1916-1917.  
61. The Washington High School, 1917-1918.  
62. The Washington High School, 1918-1919.  
63. The Washington High School, 1919-1920.  
64. The Washington High School, 1920-1921.  
65. The Washington High School, 1921-1922.  
66. The Washington High School, 1922-1923.  
67. The Washington High School, 1923-1924.  
68. The Washington High School, 1924-1925.  
69. The Washington High School, 1925-1926.  
70. The Washington High School, 1926-1927.  
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72. The Washington High School, 1928-1929.  
73. The Washington High School, 1929-1930.  
74. The Washington High School, 1930-1931.  
75. The Washington High School, 1931-1932.  
76. The Washington High School, 1932-1933.  
77. The Washington High School, 1933-1934.  
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84. The Washington High School, 1940-1941.  
85. The Washington High School, 1941-1942.  
86. The Washington High School, 1942-1943.  
87. The Washington High School, 1943-1944.  
88. The Washington High School, 1944-1945.  
89. The Washington High School, 1945-1946.  
90. The Washington High School, 1946-1947.  
91. The Washington High School, 1947-1948.  
92. The Washington High School, 1948-1949.  
93. The Washington High School, 1949-1950.  
94. The Washington High School, 1950-1951.  
95. The Washington High School, 1951-1952.  
96. The Washington High School, 1952-1953.  
97. The Washington High School, 1953-1954.  
98. The Washington High School, 1954-1955.  
99. The Washington High School, 1955-1956.  
100. The Washington High School, 1956-1957.



to prove what has often been claimed, that blindness is not enough of a handicap to prevent success."

During the trying years of the Great War life at the school continued quietly, disturbed only by occasional grumblings on the part of the students concerning the incessant and unappetizing menu of beans, codfish gravy and substitute bread which was served them. But this was a period of sacrifice. The muffled reverberations of complaint were over-shadowed by a spirit of patriotism and sacrifice comparable to that shown by sighted children of public schools throughout the land. National, state and local drives were enthusiastically participated in by the students; countless bundles of clothing, discarded materials, even peach pits were collected and sent out from the school with the fervent hope that they might aid in some way the American forces in distant France.

## V

Mrs. Hall's resignation in September, 1920, in order that she might marry, brought to the Washington School as superintendent Herbert R. Chapman, a widely known educator who devoted his life to the betterment of the blind. Mr. Chapman's career in this work began in 1894 when he accepted a position as teacher in the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind; later he became principal of the department for the blind. In 1913 he was called

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Minneapolis, and a member of the board of trustees of the American Foundation for the Blind. Lyle Von Ericksen is an attorney of note in Spokane, Washington, and the president of the Eastern Washington Association for the Blind, having been the founder of that organization.

to have that the other was killed, that Simpson is not

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Location and history of the Great War line at the school

no significant difference in the behavior of the two sets

degrees has increased and educational levels will be high and

1910-1911

and would like to know what the results are.

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of which 10% of citizens will be entitled to voice

[illegible]

It is a pleasure to have you here.

the following conditions:

After leaving out each one, the Agent has determined that each of these were

and much of the work of the past will have to be done all

... ..

See Ball's resignation in September, 1990. In June 1991

the night crew, present in the morning at 10:00.

London: Herbert J. Thomas & John Smith

The title is the following: "The History of the City of London from its Foundation to the Present Time."

present as follows: a list of all the names of the persons who were present at the meeting on the 1st of May, 1900, and a list of the names of the persons who were present at the meeting on the 1st of June, 1900.

is the Odelette School for the Deaf and Blind, located in Jersey

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Minneapolis, and a member of the Board of Directors of the American Revolution for the United States. He was also an officer of the United States Army, and was awarded the Medal of Honor for his services during the Civil War. He was also a member of the United States Senate, and was a member of the United States House of Representatives.



to Berkeley to reorganize the department for the blind at the California School for the Deaf and Blind. Under his guidance this school took a high rank and soon was recognized by Stanford University and the University of California as an accredited institution.

His foremost endeavor upon coming to the Northwest was to place the Washington School on a similar plane. Although a more attractive position was offered him at another institution, he felt a keener need at Washington for his services. Immediately he introduced a complete high school course of study following that prescribed for the public schools of the state. The need for establishing high school departments in residential schools for the blind had long been a topic of debate among educators, many claiming that public high school attendance was preferable.<sup>77</sup> The arrangement up to this time of having the older students of ability attend the Vancouver city high school while residing at the Washington School, was felt by Mr. Chapman to be unsatisfactory because it limited industrial training. "Experience proves that students do not get music, piano-tuning, broom-making, chair-caning, sewing, weaving, basket-making, hammock-making, cooking, etc., while attending the public school day classes," argued Mr. Chapman.<sup>78</sup>

The high school, therefore, was organized to permit its students to follow the same general courses offered in public

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*to give the school for the first time. The first year*

77. R. V. Merry, "The Education of the Visually Handicapped".

78. Eighth Biennial Report, 1924.





high school and at the same time pursue vocational courses. In order to keep in direct touch with the school system of the state every pupil before passing into the high school department was, and still is, required to take the regular state eighth grade examination.

The inauguration of a high school course required an addition to the teaching staff. Accordingly, three more teachers were appointed, who were also given general supervision over the 7th, 8th, and 9th grades, or junior high school. Mr. Chapman used the utmost care in the selection of his teachers, in this way improving the educational standard of the school. His teachers constituted an efficient, cosmopolitan group, coming from such distant places as, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, California, Kansas, North Dakota and Texas. That there were many changes in the corps of his teaching staff was greatly regretted by Mr. Chapman. Such changes were bound to continue, he pointed out,<sup>79</sup> until the schedule of salaries became at least commensurate with the salary schedule of city public school systems throughout the state, even then it would have to be admitted that the work of the teachers in the blind school is much more exacting and specialized.

Greater emphasis was placed upon industrial training and music than ever before. Two looms were purchased and rug weaving was introduced for the first time. The pre-vocational

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79. Eighth Biennial Report, 1924.





and vocational departments offered to the boys, wood work, hammock tying, chair caning, broom making, piano tuning and repairing; for the girls, domestic science, cutting and making clothing, knitting and crocheting, basketry, ironing and loom weaving. The music department gave instruction of piano, organ, violin and voice. A special teacher in dramatics and vocal expression was employed to give lessons weekly to all students.

An endeavor was made toward completing the equipment of the school in musical instruments, apparatus of various kinds and books embossed in revised braille. The boys industrial department was furnished with adequate tools. For the kindergarten, Mr. Chapman secured sets of the Hill kindergarten floor blocks, the Montessori didactic apparatus, the Hennessey building blocks, and a cabinet of weights and measures. Other articles of equipment purchased included: a complete set of anatomical models, an articulated skeleton, several dissected wood relief maps, pianos, typewriters, a dictaphone and four transcribing machines. An open roller skating rink was laid, as well as several cement walks. "We have every reason to rejoice," wrote Mr. Chapman in his last report, "to know that the work of educating the blind children of the State of Washington is becoming more effective on account of having the proper apparatus at ones command and by having<sup>a</sup> suitable environment in which to work."

Now the question may be raised, what was Mr. Chapman's philosophy in this "work of educating the blind child of the State of Washington"? His best statement of this was presented in an address delivered at an annual meeting of county school

and experimental laboratories offered to the boys, wood work,  
handwork, typing, chair making, book binding, piano tuning and  
repairing for the girls, domestic science, cooking and making  
clothing, knitting and crocheting, basketry, ironing and iron  
sewing. The whole department gave instruction of piano, organ,  
violin and voice. A special library in literature and history was  
provided and assigned to give lessons weekly in all subjects.  
An auditorium was built having seating capacity of  
the school. An industrial department, comprising of various kinds  
and kinds connected in various industries, the boys industrial  
department was provided with adequate tools, for the kind of  
business, to the department secured seats of the Hill kindergarten floor  
floor, the department of domestic science, the department of  
kitchen, and a school of sewing and embroidery. When articles of  
textile material produced in the school are sold at reasonable prices,  
an industrial department, several thousand more could be  
added. Furthermore, a kindergarten and two kindergarten children.  
An open roller skating rink was built, as well as several more.  
We have every reason to rejoice," wrote Mr. Chapman in  
his last report, "at the fact that the work of educating the blind  
children of the State of Washington is progressing with splendid  
and rapidity of growth, the greater expansion of the school and  
by having a better environment in which to work."

Now the question will be raised, what has the State  
government in this year of grace done for the blind of the  
State of Washington? His last statement in this regard is  
in an address delivered at a small meeting at Seattle, where



superintendents.<sup>80</sup> "Our aim is," he said on this occasion, "to receive the blind child of kindergarten age in order to rescue it from the mannerisms and idiosyncrasies into which parents almost universally let the child fall. Through kindergarten activities and games and by means of various devices and by work correlated with physical education, with special training in the use of the hands and sense training in general, the child is taught to find himself. . . . In the school our efforts are all directed toward the goal of rendering the pupils independent in the better sense of that term. The school exists that its pupils may acquire physical balance and poise, mental power in the solution of real problems, the social amenities including how to meet people and how to get along with them, some appreciation of the finer things in art and literature and at least the rudiments of a training for economic independence. Training in morality permeates all of these. Character building takes place not through preachments and useless restrictions but through meeting the problems of the school and of life in an increasingly courageous way." To this end both the boys and girls of the school were taught to care for their own rooms, assigned various duties about the place, and encouraged in every way to develop normally. "Blind people of all others must not grow up to feel that things 'just happen' or 'do themselves' for if so, tragedy will surely follow."

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80. "The Scope and Service the State School for the Blind has to Offer in the Field of Education in the State of Washington", to be April 26, 1923.





Mr. Chapman's long and successful career as an educator of the blind ended on the evening of October 15, 1926, when he passed away, after a long illness. The writer, a student at the institution at the time, recalls the profound sadness that prevailed over the school when Mr. Chapman's death occurred, and how a few days later the entire student body attended the funeral of *its* beloved superintendent. It was indeed a sad event in the history of the school.

Who was to succeed Mr. Chapman? was the question of the moment on the lips of everyone at the institution. The fear that a superintendent of less ability and understanding might be chosen was re-echoed from mind to mind, not to be dispelled until the joyfully-received announcement that Mrs. Jeanne E. Chapman had been unanimously appointed by the Board of Control to take her husband's place.

Mrs. Chapman, like Mrs. Hall, received her administrative qualifications from first-hand experience as helprate of her husband. Coming from a distinguished family and graduating from a famous conservatory of music, she had won wide recognition as a violinist. At the time of her marriage, she taught music at the California School for the Blind; and, until her husband's death, acted in the capacity of violin and orchestra instructor at the Washington School. A better selection as superintendent could not have been made, for her appointment meant that the forward-looking policies of Mr. Chapman were to continue and at the same time the head of the school was to be one respected and loved by both students and teachers.

Dr. Thompson's long and successful career as an educator of the blind ended on the evening of October 12, 1904, when he passed away, after a long illness. The writer, a student at the institution at the time, recalls the previous autumn that he recalled from the school when Dr. Thompson's death occurred, and how a few days later the entire student body attended the funeral of this beloved superintendent. It was indeed a sad event in the history of the school.

When he passed Dr. Thompson was the president of the Council on the Laws of Education at the institution. The year was a year of preparation of laws relating to and understanding right to education was secured from what is said, not to be forgotten with the legally-secured arrangement that was, January 1, 1904, and was accordingly provided by the Board of Education to take her husband's place.

Miss Thompson, like Mrs. Hall, received the administrative responsibilities from the Board of Education as a result of her husband's death. During the first few months of her administration from a former superintendent of schools, she had the same position as a principal. At the time of her death, she had been at the institution for the first time, and until her husband's death, acted in the capacity of principal and superintendent of the institution. A better selection as superintendent could not have been made, for her administration meant that the forward-looking policies of Dr. Thompson were continued and at the same time the work of the institution was continued and improved by Miss Thompson and her staff.



No immediate changes in the administration of the school occurred. Work and play continued at the usual pace, schedules remained the same. Only gradually, almost imperceptibly, did changes take place. Mrs. Chapman had taken up the policies of her husband; but as she grew in her work the horizon of her duties also grew -- these policies she expanded and broadened to their fullest interpretation. She added music courses to comply with public school requirements, promoting at the institution a thirty piece symphony orchestra and jazz band, as well as courses in musical history and appreciation. She built up physical education by engaging for this purpose a former University of Washington athletic star. She put in charge of the boys dormitory a college graduate, who formulated an extensive playground program. In the industrial department she substituted for hammock and broom making the more practical subjects of tennis restringing and wicker furniture manufacturing.

Socialization on the part of the blind students has been foremost among her aims. These children participate in such organizations as the Girl Reserves, affiliated with the Portland Y. M. C. A., the Junior Red Cross, the Honor Torch Society, local clubs and churches, the Portland Junior Symphony, and the National Athletic Association of Schools for the Blind. Her students are allowed many privileges, even to the extent of the intermingling of both sex on the playground and at the dining room table -- a liberty seldom found in schools for the blind, but one which has met with great success at the Washington School.

March 14, 1935.

In the past, however, in the administration of the school  
covered. They are now being continued at the usual pace, and the  
presented the same. Only occasionally, almost imperceptibly, the  
change has taken place. Mrs. Gwynne has been at the head of  
in her husband; but as she grew in her work the horizon of  
her duties also grew -- these policies she adopted and found  
and to build a better future. She added much to the  
to comply with public school regulations, provision of the  
instituted a thirty page system of records and reports, and  
as well as courses in natural history and geography. The  
built up physical education by securing for this purpose a  
former University of Washington student. She has in  
charge of the high school, a college graduate, who later  
acted as executive physical education. In the high school  
department she maintained the highest and best method of  
more practical subjects of health teaching and other things  
which were necessary.

Cooperation in the part of the high school has been  
frequent among the aims. These children participate in such  
organizations as the Girl Scouts, affiliated with the Port-  
land I. M. U. A., the Junior Red Cross, the Junior League, and the  
local clubs and societies. The Portland Junior League, and the  
National Woman's Association of Portland are the main ones.  
Students are allowed many privileges, even to the extent of the  
importance of their own on the playground and on the living  
table -- a library within reach in schools for the blind, but  
one which has not with great success in the Washington School.



With such a broad and comprehensive educational and social program it is not strange that the Washington School has become recognized as one of the least "institutionalized" schools for the blind in the country.

It is also easy to understand why Mrs. Chapman is regarded by her students almost in the light of a mother. "She has that warm understanding that encircles the world. She never says 'the students' or 'inmates of the blind school'. She speaks of them as 'her boys', and 'her girls' with genuine friendliness and sincere sympathy in her voice. Her understanding and sympathy reaches far beyond the limits of the one-time typical institution head."<sup>81</sup>

And her interest in the achievements of graduates of the school is ever present. In all reports to the Board of Control she points with pride to the accomplishments of this or that former pupil -- and she is wholly justified in doing this, for out of a total of fifty-one high school graduates over a period of ten years, and without financial help from the State, twenty-four have pursued higher education; of the twenty-seven remaining, twenty-six are gainfully employed.<sup>82</sup> It is also a widely publicized fact that "blind students at the University of Washington get much higher grades than the average student unimpeded by lack of sight."<sup>83</sup> Since 1929 eight valuable scholarships have been obtained through Mrs. Chapman's intervention -- three from

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81. The Seattle Times, April 11, 1934.

82. See table in appendix giving occupations of graduates.

83. This statement is quoted from the Woburn Times, Woburn, Mass., March 14, 1935.

With such a firm and comprehensive educational and social program it is not strange that the Washington School has become recognized as one of the best "high schools" in the country. the blind in the country.

It is also easy to understand why Mrs. Johnson is regarded by her students almost in the light of a mother. "She has that very understanding that enables the youth. She never says 'I'm studying on' instead of 'I'm blind'." The reason of this is that Mrs. Johnson, and her girls, with various disabilities and physical handicap in her school. For understanding and the daily practice for school the limits of the school is typical illustration here.

And her interest in the achievements of graduates of the school is ever present. In all reports on the blind at Central the public eye finds in the accomplishments of this or that former pupil -- and she is usually justified in doing this, for out of a total of fifty-one high school graduates over a period of ten years, and without financial help from the school, twenty-four have received Bachelor's degrees; of the twenty-seven remaining twenty-six are actively employed. It is also a notable point that last year's class of blind students at the University of Washington has won higher grades than the average student elsewhere. In fact of sight. Many have since obtained advanced degrees -- three from Johns Hopkins University, two from the University of Wisconsin, and one from the University of California.



Perkins Institution for the Harvard Course on the Education of the Blind, three from the American Foundation for the Blind, and two from the Cornish School of Music, Seattle.

From these several scholarships and the scholastic achievements of graduates, the Washington School has gained recognition of prominence in the educational work for the blind. The crowning of this recognition came in 1930 when the school was honored by being unanimously selected by members of the American Association of Instructors of the Blind as the meeting place for the Thirteenth Biennial Convention of that organization. To this convention, which lasted from June 23 to June 27, came delegates from all sections of the Union, with twenty-six states represented, and from Hawaii and two Canadian Provinces. The papers presented at the sessions were interesting, the discussions on numerous phases of work for the blind valuable, and the automobile excursions to Hood River, Oregon, and to Longview, Washington, enjoyable to the visitors. A hope of Mr. Chapman's, expressed back in 1922, that the Washington School be chosen as host to a convention of the American Association of Instructors of the Blind, had come true; just as his other hopes concerning the Washington School are now being realized under the splendid guidance of Mrs. Chapman.

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leadership which have directed the progress.

While neighboring schools for the blind have suffered immeasurably from political intervention, Washington School

of the blind, since from the American Foundation for the Blind, and two from the British School of Music, London.

From these several contributions and the generous support of the Government, the foundation which has gained recognition in the educational work for the blind. The

recognition of this recognition was in 1910 when the school was

honored by being unanimously selected by members of the American

Association of Teachers of the Blind as the leading place

for the International Musical Convention of 1911.

In this convention, which lasted from June 10 to June 17, 1911,

delegates from all sections of the Union, with twenty-five states

represented, and from Haiti and two Canadian provinces. The

reports presented in the sessions were interesting, and the

also on numerous phases of work for the blind valuable, and

the committee consisting of John Miller, Boston, and Dr. James

W. Wadsworth, Syracuse in the chairman. A copy of the

minutes, signed and dated in 1911, that the American School

be chosen as host for a convention of the American Association

of Teachers of the Blind, and was given to the other

delegates attending the convention which was held in 1912.

which the principal of the School of Music, London.



## CONCLUSION

The prevailing spirit in the Territory of Washington that perceived the true meaning of public school education as an instrument in molding state and national life, also saw the need for a territorial school in which handicapped children -- the deaf and dumb, the blind, and the feeble-minded -- might be trained to become useful and law-abiding citizens. To this end, the Washington School for Defective Youth was established nearly a half century ago.

Like other similar state institutions, its roots were buried deep in the soil of earlier legislation relating to the indigent and handicapped classes. Like other schools, too, its beginning was humble and precarious to its own well-being. Yet it survived and grew. And, as we have already seen, it soon became necessary to divide the School for Defective Youth into two institutions, one for the deaf and blind, and the other for the feeble-minded; still later, to create separate institutions for the deaf and for the blind.

It is of the history of the latter, the Washington State School for the Blind, that this study has concerned itself. And in tracing this history, two facts stand out above all others; first, the absence of political interference in the development of the school, and, second, the high types of leadership which have directed its progress.

While neighboring schools for the blind were suffering immeasurably from political intervention, hindered by frequent

# CONCLUSION

The prevailing spirit in the University of Wisconsin has  
 presented the first number of public school education as an  
 instrument in making state and national life, and the  
 need for a fundamental reform in which handicapped children  
 -- the deaf and dumb, the blind, and the feeble-minded --  
 ought to be trained to become useful and law-abiding citizens.  
 To this end, the Washington School for Deaf-Blind Youth was  
 established nearly a half century ago.

The other states of the Union, the people have  
 turned back to the call of earlier legislation relating to  
 the ignorant and handicapped classes. The other schools,  
 too, the beginning was made and progress is the only  
 belief. Yet it surprised and grew, and, as we have already  
 seen, it soon became necessary to divide and branch the  
 Deaf-Blind Youth into two institutions, one for the deaf and  
 blind, and the other for the feeble-minded, still later, to  
 create separate institutions for the deaf and the blind.

It is the history of the school, the Washington State  
 School for the Blind, that this study has examined itself.  
 And in tracing this history, two facts stand out above all  
 others: first, the absence of political interference in the  
 development of the school, and, second, the high types of  
 leadership which have directed its progress.

While maintaining schools for the blind were suffering  
 increasingly from political interference, hindered by financial



changes in administration, embarrassed by investigation after investigation and hampered by legislative wranglings, the Washington School continued quietly and unimpeded along the course of its development. None of its superintendents were appointed or dismissed for political reasons, never was it subjected to legislative investigation, and only once in its entire history was there a glimmering of political dissatisfaction at the manner in which the school was being managed. This is indeed a fine record.

Yet such record could never have been made without able administrators. All the superintendents of the Washington School have been men and women of good training and long experience who were genuinely interested in the welfare of the blind. Each has given that which his own or her own period of office needed most: James Watson laid the foundation of the school, Thomas Clarke spread its name, the Halls built its present plant, Herbert Chapman raised its curriculum to accredited standards, and Mrs. Chapman brought it socialization. To these splendid administrators, and to the wholehearted co-operation of former governors, legislators and members of boards of control must be given credit for the past and present success of the Washington State School for the Blind.

showing its development, and the progress of the  
investigation and progress of legislative work, the  
Baltimore School should not only be kept up to date  
in its development, but of its progress, the  
progress of the school for political science, and its  
progress in legislative investigation, and only in the  
entire history and there a statement of political science  
history of the nation in which the school was being carried.  
This is indeed a fine record.

For each school should have its own record of its  
progress, all the progress of the school  
should have been and when it has been and when  
progress and when progress is made in the school of  
the state. Each has given that which his own or her own  
progress of state school, and when progress is made in the  
state of the school, progress should be made, the state  
will its progress, progress should be made in the school  
to scientific standards, and when progress is made in  
them. To these schools administrative, and in the state.  
Schools of political science, progress and  
progress of school of political science, progress and  
and progress of the school of political science, progress and



## APPENDIX





A CHRONOLOGICAL OUTLINE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE  
WASHINGTON STATE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

1886. Feb. 3d, Gov. Watson C. Souire signs an act of the Territorial Legislature, establishing a School for Defective Youth at Vancouver, in Clark County, for the education of the deaf, blind and feeble-minded youth of the Territory.
- Board of Trustees appointed by the governor, take immediate steps to organize and proceed to the performance of their official duties. Transport small class of deaf mutes from Tacoma with their teacher, a Presbyterian pastor, to Vancouver. Rev. W. D. McFarland, the teacher, becomes first Director. Rent a small house in the center of Vancouver, in which school work commences on March 11th.
- Feb. 24th, a land commission appointed by Governor agrees upon and selects a site containing 129 acres. Public-spirited members of the Vancouver Board of Trade subscribe and collect funds sufficient to purchase this land to erect a building to be used as school house and living quarters; ready for occupancy in the summer.
1887. June, Rev. W. D. McFarland resigns as Director, and is succeeded by James Watson, an instructor of long experience.
- Second term begins on Wednesday of the last week in August with twenty pupils in attendance, only one of whom is blind -- Harry E. Applegate of Tacoma, who becomes the first blind pupil of the school. Embossed books are donated by Perkins Institution.
1888. Territorial Legislature appropriates \$30,000 for the erection of a new building. Contract awarded on May 24th.
1890. United States census shows that there are fifty-one deaf and seventy-eight blind youths under the age of twenty-one years residing in the state.
- School population numbers twenty-five deaf and one blind. Legislature appropriates \$20,000 for the erection of a building for the feeble-minded, which is completed in 1892. In 1909 the department for the blind takes over this building and property, the site of the present school.
- A compulsory education law is enacted, compelling all defective children to attend school.
1891. A joint Senate and House Committee visits the school and reports its findings.
- The department for the blind has four pupils and is taught by one teacher, who is also instructor of the highest class in the department for the deaf.

A CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE  
WASHINGTON STATE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

1886. Feb. 25. Gov. Nelson J. Baker signed an act of the Legislature creating a school for the blind, and authorizing the establishment of a school for the blind, in Clark County, for the education of the deaf, blind and feeble-minded youth of the State.
- Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor, John D. Baker, late of the State, late of the State, and succeeded in the performance of their official duties. Governor small class of deaf and blind youth began with their studies, a teacher, certain quarters, the Governor, Mrs. J. D. Baker, the teacher, became Mrs. Baker, and a small house in the center of Vancouver, in which school was commenced on March 15th.
- Feb. 25th, a law was passed authorizing the Governor to acquire and donate a site for the school, and to acquire and collect funds sufficient to purchase this land to erect a building to be used as school house and living quarters; ready for occupancy in the summer.
1887. June, Mrs. W. M. Baker, residing in Everett, and is succeeded by James Baker, an instructor of deaf and blind.
- Second year began on September 1st of the first year in August with twenty pupils in attendance, only one of whom is blind - Mrs. J. Baker, wife of James, and became the first pupil of the school. Books are donated by Perkins Institution.
1888. Legislative appropriation \$20,000 for the erection of a new building. Contract signed on May 1st.
1890. United States census shows that there are 1175 deaf and seventy-eight blind people under the age of twenty years residing in the State.
- School population numbers twenty-five deaf and one blind. Legislative appropriation \$20,000 for the erection of a building for the feeble-minded, which is completed in 1891. In 1891 the Government for the blind takes over the building and property, the site of the present school.
- A compulsory education law is enacted, compelling all defective children to attend school.
1891. A joint Senate and House Committee visits the school and reports its findings.
- The Government for the blind has four pupils and is ranked in the country, who is also instructor of the blind class in the department for the deaf.



1892. The department for the blind has ten members, and is placed under the direction of Miss H. C. Pettit, who remains sole instructor of the department for seven years.  
Dec. 8th, the department for the feeble-minded is opened.
1897. A State Code of Public Instruction is printed in which is included all the laws relating to the State School for Defective Youth.
1900. Members of the Oregon Board of Education visit the school with a view of taking back to Oregon improved knowledge on the education of the blind and deaf.
1901. State Board of Control is created, but the School for Defective Youth is not put under its full jurisdiction. Robert Irwin becomes first blind graduate of the school.
1903. Ernest Lister, Chairman of the Board of Control, recommends to the Legislature that the State School for Defective Youth be made into three separate schools -- that the feeble-minded children be established at another point, and that the deaf and blind be separated.
1905. The Legislature provides a division of the State School for Defective Youth and renames the institution "State School for the Deaf and Blind". The State Institution for Feeble-Minded is established and opens at Medical Lake in Eastern Washington the following year.
1906. January 1st, Thomas P. Clarke succeeds James Watson as Director of the State School for the Deaf and Blind. The population of the blind department has grown to thirty-one.
1907. The Legislature appropriates \$112,350 for the biennium, and increases the maintenance from \$162 to \$252 yearly per capita. Many changes and improvements, chief among which is an increased number of teachers in both departments.  
Emphasis is placed upon industrial training.
1909. Legislature makes separate appropriations for the deaf and the blind, but does not create separate institutions. The State School for the Deaf and Blind is placed under the complete management of the Board of Control. The opening and closing dates of the school term is changed. "Superintendent" is the name given the head of the school in place of "Director". The duties and qualifications of the Superintendent are stated by law.  
George Mullen becomes principal of the school for the blind under Mr. Clarke's superintendency.











1926- Oct. 15th, death of Mr. Chapman, appointment of Mrs.

1935. Chapman, his wife, as superintendent.

Continues the work in literary department as outlined by state law.

Adds music courses to comply with public school requirements.

Builds up physical education department by engaging a university graduate for this work. Hires university graduate to take charge of boys dormitory and plan a play-ground program.

Socialization of the blind is emphasized. Pupils participate in such organizations as: the Girl Reserves, the Junior Red Cross, the Torch Honor Society, the National Athletic Association of Schools for the Blind and Portland Junior Symphony Orchestra. Participation in programs given by the high schools of three counties, the Music Teachers Association Concerts, clubs and at churches.

Scholarships are applied for. Within the past five years, three have been awarded to school graduates by Perkins Institution, three by the American Foundation for the Blind and one free and one partial scholarship at the Cornish School of Music, Seattle.

1930, the school is host to the national convention of of the American Association of Instructors of the Blind.

1934, opening of school term, Oct. 1st, 102 pupils in residence.

1935, spring, Department of Finance, Budget and Business created to take the place of the Department of Business Control and another former state department.

Legislature appropriates money to build a new primary building, heating plant and water system. PWA sets aside \$15,000 for school equipment -- in all making a total of \$94,500. Construction of the new buildings to begin in the summer.





# OCCUPATIONS OF GRADUATES

Total No. Graduates (1924-1934)	Girls 24	Boys 27	Total 51
Graduates of Normal Schools and Universities			6
Students attending Normal Schools or Universities during the period			10
Students having taken the Harvard Course at Perkins			3
Students on scholarship at business colleges			3
Students on scholarship at Cornish School of Music			2
			<hr/> 24

Teachers now holding positions	5
Home Teachers	1
Newly appointed Teachers	1
	<hr/> 7

Piano Tuners	5
Physio-Therapy	1
Hotel Worker	1
Orchestra Players and Musicians	6
Salesmen and Broom-makers (including college student)	5
Married (girls)	4
Braille Transcribers	4
	<hr/> 26

There are at least six girls who take more than the average responsibilities of home-making, all of whom are totally blind.

1933, ch. 140, p. 246: According act relative to the State School for Defective Youth in Ball's Pond, 1933, and Pierce's Code, section 1000, the school is to be located on the site of the school house.

COMPARISON OF GRADUATES

Total No. Graduates (1954-1955)	Male	Female	Total
Graduates of Kansas State and Universities			8
Students attending Kansas State or Universities			11
During the period			3
Students having taken the Kansas Survey of Postsecondary Education			3
Students on scholarship at Kansas State or Universities			1
Students on scholarship at Kansas State or Universities			1

Teachers and teaching positions	3
Non-teachers	1
Not employed	1
	1

Public Schools	3
Private Schools	1
Not employed	1
Graduates of Kansas State and Universities	1
Students attending Kansas State or Universities	1
During the period	1
Students having taken the Kansas Survey of Postsecondary Education	1
Students on scholarship at Kansas State or Universities	1
Students on scholarship at Kansas State or Universities	1

There are at least six girls who have taken the survey  
responsibilities of home-making, all of whom are totally  
blind.



**DIGEST OF WASHINGTON LAWS CONCERNING THE BLIND**  
(From 1888 to 1934)

- 1886, p. 136: To establish and locate the Washington School for Defective Youth, for the education of the deaf, blind and feeble minded youth of the Territory of Washington; tuition fee; appointment, duties and powers of the Board of Trustees; financial and official year; appointment, qualifications, powers, duties, salary and removal of Director; etc., etc.
- 1888, ch. 45, p. 82: To provide for the erection of a building for the Washington School for Defective Youth near Vancouver, in Clark County, and to appropriate money (\$30,000) therefor.
- 1889, ch. 1, p. 7: Appropriating money for the support of the Washington School for Defective Youth, (\$12,000 to defray expenses from April 1, 1890 to April 1, 1891).
- 1890, ch. 1, p. 17: To provide for the completion of the building at the Washington School for Defective Youth, and to appropriate money (\$20,000) therefor.
- 1890, ch. 16, p. 497: To provide for the compulsory education of defective youths, and to provide penalties for the violation of the same.
- 1897, ch. 118, p. 443-448: Code of Public Instruction.
- 1899, ch. 81, p. 130: Amendatory of law relating to School for Defective Youth.
- 1901, ch. 119, p. 249: Creating a State Board of Control, and to provide for the government control and maintenance of the several state institutions, and repealing conflicting laws.
- 1903, ch. 17, p. 17: Appropriating money for the maintenance of the Washington School for Defective Youth.
- 1903, ch. 32, p. 36: To provide for the purchase of additional land adjoining the grounds of the State School for Defective Youth, and making an appropriation therefor.
- 1903, ch. 140, p. 266: Amending act relative to the State School for Defective Youth in Ballinger's Code, sec. 7475, and Pierce's Code, stating who may be admitted and the time of the school term.





- 1905, ch. 70, p. 133: Providing for the care of defective and feeble minded youth, establishing an institution therefor, providing the construction of buildings, making an appropriation, and declaring an emergency. (Sec. 10: the blind to occupy the vacant building formerly used by the feeble minded children.)
- 1905, ch. 139, p. 254: An act to change the name of the State Institution located at Vancouver from "State School for Defective Youth" to "State School for Deaf and Blind".
- 1907, ch. 166, p. 378: An act relating to the government, management and control of the public institutions and educational institutions, and the State Capital buildings and grounds.
- 1909, ch. 97, p. 258, School Code: An act establishing, providing for maintenance of, and relating to a general and uniform school system for the State of Washington, in which is included the state schools for defective youth. Sub-chapter 5, pp. 258-260, treat the State School for Deaf and Blind: term, admission, control of, superintendent, census report, compulsory education, expense, etc., etc.
- 1911, ch. 58, p. 318: An act relating to the State School for the Blind, and making an appropriation of \$50,000 for buildings for the same.
- 1913, ch. 10, p. 67: Creating a State School for the Deaf and a State School for the Blind.
- 1915, ch. 107, p. 308: An act relating to the State Board of Control, and amending section 8933 of Remington and Ballinger's Annotated Codes and Statutes of Washington.
- 1917, ch. 67, p. 228: An appropriation for the completion of the administration and school building at the State School for the Blind.
- 1921, ch. 72, p. 207: An act relating to and providing for the industrial education and the marketing of industrial products of the adult blind, providing for county aid therefor, making an appropriation, and providing penalties for the violation thereof.
- 1933, ch. 102, p. 417: An act relating to indigent blind persons, providing funds for such purpose and providing penalties.
- 1933, ch. 176, p. 685: Providing for the acceptance of benefits of an Act of Congress making provisions for the promotion of vocational rehabilitation of persons disabled in industry or otherwise and their return to civil employment, designating the State Board of Vocational Education as the board to co-operate with the Federal Board of Vocational Education in carrying out the provisions of the said act of Congress, and defining duties and powers of said board and making an appropriation.















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